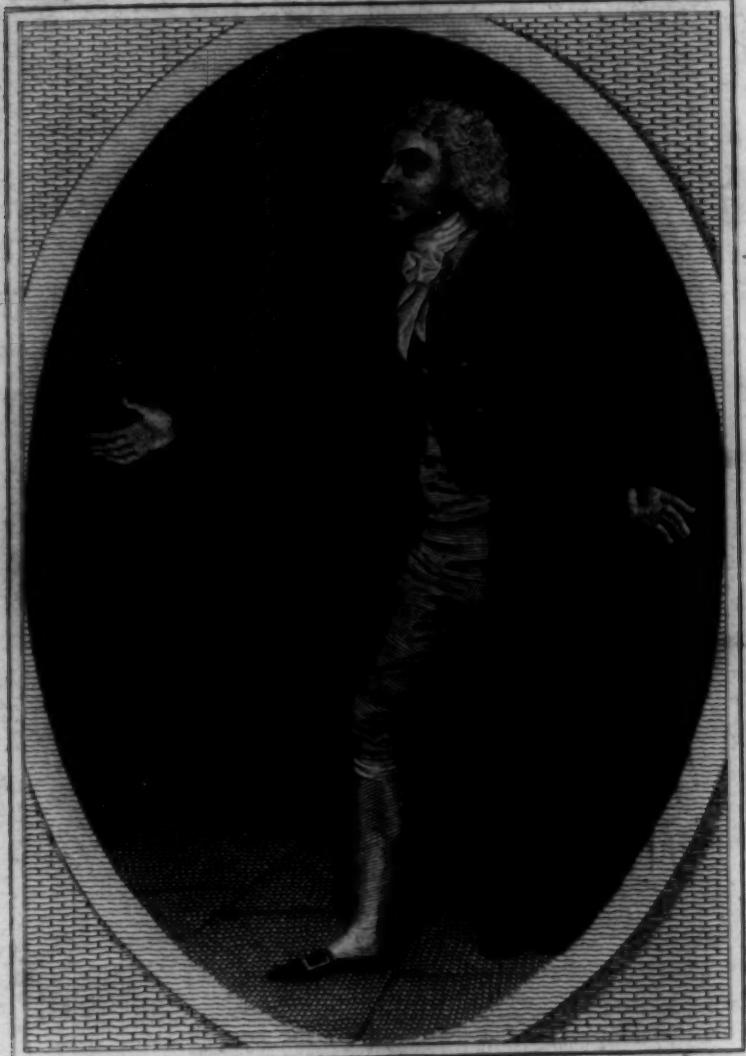


Act IV.

THE INCONSTANT.

Sc. II.



De Wilde sculpsit

Longy sc.

M. CAULFIELD as MIRABEL.

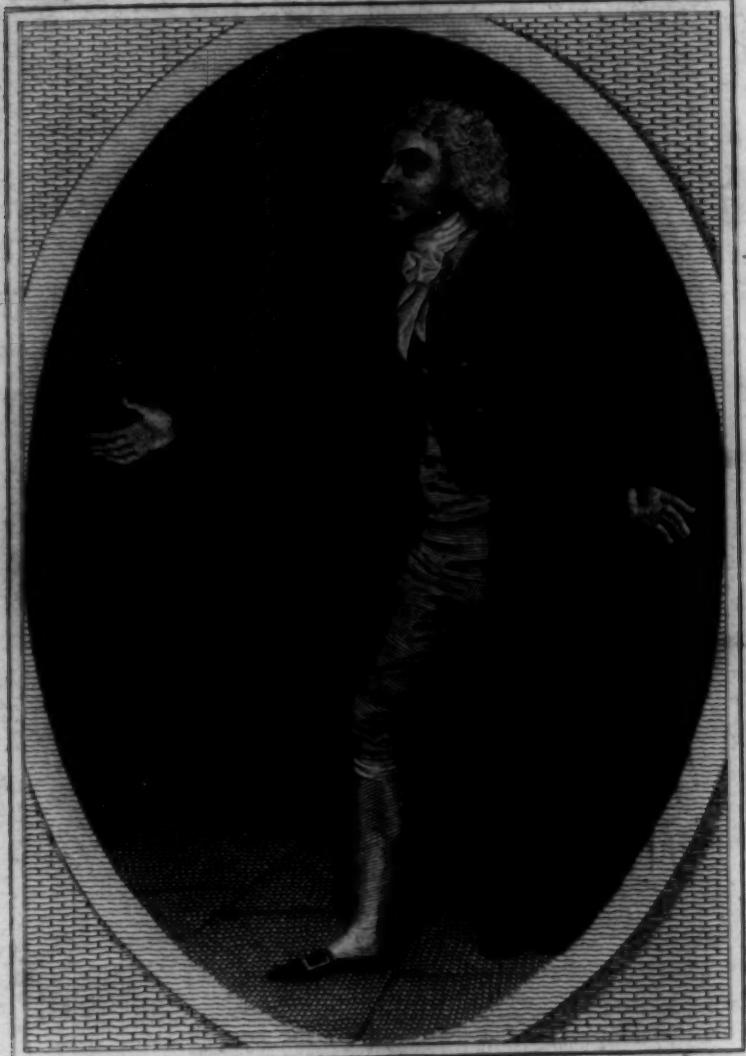
Mr. No my fair Angel bade me return -

London. Printed for S. Cawthron. British Library. 3rd and 30th Sept. 1804.

Act IV.

THE INCONSTANT.

Sc. II.



De Wilde sculpsit

Longy sc.

M. CAULFIELD as MIRABEL.

Mr. No my fair Angel bade me return -

London. Printed for S. Cawthron. British Library. 3rd and 30th Sept. 1804.



THE INCONSTANT

With... her... my... own... wife... the... married... her
now... her... old... man... her... now... her... old... man...

Jenny del.

Bartelmeus sculpsit

London, Printed for S. Cawthron, British Library, Strand, Sept: 1798.

7 JU 52

THE
INCONSTANT;
OR,
THE WAY TO WIN HIM.

BY MR. GEORGE FARQUHAR.

ADAPTED FOR
THEATRICAL REPRESENTATION,
AS PERFORMED AT
THE THEATRE-ROYAL, COVENT-GARDEN.

REGULATED FROM THE PROMPT-BOOK,
By Permission of the Manager.

The Lines distinguished by inverted Commas, are omitted in the Representation; and those
printed in Italics are the Additions of the Theatre.

LONDON:

Printed for, and under the Direction of
GEORGE CAWTHORN, BRITISH LIBRARY, STRAND,

M DCC XCV.



TO
RICHARD TIGHE, ESQ.

SIR,

DEDICATIONS are the only fashions in the world that are more disliked for being universal; and the reason is, that they very seldom fit the person they were made for: but I hope to avoid the common obloquy in this address, by laying aside the poet in every thing but the dramatical decorum of suiting my character to the person.

From the part of Mirabel in this play, and another character in one of my former, people are willing to compliment my performance in drawing a gay, splendid, generous, easy, fine young gentleman. My genius, I must confess, has a bent to that kind of description; and my veneration for you, sir, may pass for unquestionable, since in all these happy accomplishments you come so near to my darling character, abating his inconstancy.

What an unspeakable blessing is youth and fortune, when a happy understanding comes in, to moderate the desires of the first, and to refine upon the advantages of the latter; when a gentleman is master of all pleasures, but a slave to none; who has travelled, not only for the curiosity of the sight, but for the improvement of the mind's eye; and who returns full of every thing but himself? An author might say a great deal more, but a friend, sir—nay, an enemy, must allow you this.

I shall here, sir, meet with two obstacles, your modesty and your sense; the first, as a censor upon the subject, the second, as a critic upon the stile: but I am obstinate in my purpose, and will maintain what I say to the last drop of

my pen ; which I may the more boldly undertake, having all the world on my side: nay, I have your very self against you; for by declining to hear your own merit, your friends are authorized the more to proclaim it.

Your generosity and easiness of temper is not only obvious in your common affairs and conversation, but more plainly evident in your darling amusement, that opener and dilator of the mind—music : from your affection for this delightful study, we may deduce the pleasing harmony that is apparent in all your actions ; and be assured, sir, that a person must be possessed of a very divine soul, who is so much in love with the entertainment of angels.

From your encouragement of music, if there be any poetry here, it has a claim, by the right of kindred, to your favour and affection. You were pleased to honour the representation of this play, with your appearance at several times, which flattered my hopes that there might be something in it which your good-nature might excuse. With the honour I here intend for myself, I likewise here consult the interest of my nation, by shewing a person that is so much a reputation and credit to my country. Besides all this, I was willing to make a handsome compliment to the place of my pilgrimage ; by informing the world that so fine a gentleman had the seeds of his education in the same university, and at the same time with,

SIR,

Your most faithful, and

Most humble Servant,

Nov. 1702.

G. FARQUHAR.

PREFACE.

To give you the history of this play, would but cause the reader and the writer a trouble to no purpose ; I shall only say, that I took the hint from Fletcher's Wild Goose Chase ; and to those who say that I have spoiled the original, I wish no other injury but that they would say it again.

As to the success of it, I think it but a kind of Cremona business, I have neither lost nor won. I pushed fairly, but the French were prepossessed, and the charms of Gallic heels were too hard for an English brain ; but I am proud to own, that I have laid my head at the ladies' feet. The favour was unavoidable, for we are a nation so very fond of improving our understanding, that the instruction of a play does no good, when it comes in competition with the moral of a minuet. Pliny tells us, in his Natural History, of elephants that were taught to dance on the ropes ; if this could be made practicable now, what a number of subscriptions might be had to bring the Great Mogul out of Fleet-street, and make him dance between the acts !

I remember, that about two years ago, I had a gentleman from France * that brought the play-house some fifty audiences in five months ; then why should I be surprised to find a French lady do as much ? It is the prettiest way in the world of despising the French king, to let him see that we can afford money to bribe away his dancers, when he, poor man, has exhausted all his stock, in buying some pitiful towns and principalities : *cum multis aliis.* What can be a greater compliment to our generous nation, than to have the lady upon her re-tour to Paris, boast of her splendid entertainment in England, of the complaisance, liberty, and good-nature of a people, that thronged her house so full, that she had not room to stick a pin ; and left a poor fellow, that had the misfortune of being one of themselves, without one farthing for half a year's pains that he had taken for their entertainment.

There were some gentlemen in the pit the first night, that took the hint from the prologue to damn the play ; but they made such a noise in the execution, that the people took the outcry for a reprieve ; so that the darling mischief was over-laid by their over-fond-

* Constant Couple.

ness of the changeling: 'tis somewhat hard that gentlemen should debase themselves into a faction of a dozen, to stab a single person, who never had the resolution to face two men at a time; if he has had the misfortune of any misunderstanding with a particular person, he has had a particular person to answer it: but these sparks would be remarkable in their resentment; and if any body fall under their displeasure, they scorn to call him to a particular account, but will very honourably burn his house, or pick his pocket.

The new-house has perfectly made me a convert by their civility on my sixth night: for to be friends, and revenged at the same time, I must give them a play, that is---when I write another. For faction runs so high, that I could wish the senate would suppress the houses, or put in force the act against bribing elections; that house which has the most favours to bestow, will certainly carry it, spight of all political justice that would support t' other.

I have heard some people so extravagantly angry at this play, that one would think they had no reason to be displeased at all; whilst some (otherwise men of good sense) had commended it so much, that I was afraid they ridiculed me; so that between both, I am absolutely at a loss what to think on't: for though the cause has come on six days successively, yet the trial, I fancy, is not determined. When our devotion to Lent, and our Lady, is over, the business will be brought on again, and then we shall have fair play for our money.

There is a gentleman of the first understanding, and a very good critic, who said of Mr. Wilks, that in this part he out-acted himself, and all men that he ever saw. I would not rob Mr. Wilks, by a worse expression of mine, of a compliment that he so much deserves.

I had almost forgot to tell you, that the turn of plot in the last act, is an adventure of Chevalier de Chastillon at Paris, and matter of fact; but the thing is so universally known, that I think this advice might have been spared, as well as the rest of the preface, for any good it will do either to me or the play.

PROLOGUE.

*LIKE hungry guests a sitting audience looks ;
Plays are like suppers : poets are the cooks.
The founders you : the table is this place :
The carvers we : the prologue is the grace.
Each act a course ; each scene a different dish :
Though we're in Lent, I doubt you're still for flesh.
Satire's the sauce, high-season'd, sharp, and rough ;
Kind masks and beaux, I hope you're pepper-proof.
Wit is the wine ; but 't is so scarce the true,
Poets, like vintners, balderdash and brew.
Your surly scenes, where rant and bloodshed join,
Are butcher's meat ; a battle's a sirloin.
Your scenes of love, so flowing, soft, and chaste,
Are water-gruel, without salt or taste.
Barwyd's fat venison, which, though stale, can please,
Your rakes love haut-gôûts, like your damn'd French cheese.
Your rarity for the fair guest to gape on,
Is your nice squeaker, or Italian capon ;
Or your French virgin-pullet, garnish'd round,
And dress'd with sauce of sime—four hundred pound.
An opera, like an oglie, nicks the age ;
Farce is the basty-pudding of the stage.
For when you're treated with indifferent cheer,
You can dispense with slender stage-coach fare.
A pastoral's whipt cream ; stage-whims, mere trash ;
And tragi-comedy, half fish and flesh.
But comedy—that, that's the darling cheer,
This night we hope you'll all inconstant bear :
Wild fowl is lik'd in play-house all the year.*

Yet since each mind betrays a diff'rent taste,
And every dish scarce pleases ev'ry guest,
If aught you relish, do not damn the rest.
This favour crav'd, up let the music strike:
You're welcome all—now fall to, where you like.

Dramatis Personae.

COVENT-GARDEN.

Men.

Old MIRABEL, an aged gentlemen, of an odd compound, between the peevishness incident to his years, and his fatherly fondness towards his son,	- - -	Mr. Quick
Young MIRABEL,	- - -	Mr. Pope.
Capt. DURETETE, an honest good-natured fellow, that thinks himself a greater fool than he is,	- - -	Mr. Ryder.
DUGARD,	- - -	Mr. Macready.
PETIT, servant to Dugard, afterwards to his sister,	- - -	Mr. Brown.

Women.

ORIANA, a lady contracted to Mirabel, who would bring him to reason,	-	Mrs. Bernard.
BISARRE, a whimsical lady, friend to Oriana, admired by Duretete,	-	Mrs. Abington.
LAMORCE, a woman of contrivance,	-	Mrs. Platt.

Four Bravoes, two Gentlemen, and two Ladies.

Soldiers, Servants, and Attendants.



THE INCONSTANT.

ACT I. SCENE I.

The Street. Enter DUGARD and his Man PETIT, in Riding Habits.

Dugard.

SIRRah, what's a clock?

Pet. Turn'd of eleven, sir.

Dug. No more! We have rid a swinging pace from Nemours since two this morning! Petit, run to Rousseau's, and bespeak a dinner at a Lewis d'or a head, to be ready by one.

Pet. How many will there be of you, sir?

Dug. Let me see—Mirabel one, Duretete two, myself three—

Pet. And I four.

Dug. How now, sir, at your old travelling familiarity! When abroad, you had some freedom for want of better company; but among my friends at Paris, pray remember your distance—Begone, sir. [Exit Petit.] This fellow's wit was necessary abroad, but he's too cunning for a domestic; I must dispose of him some way else. Who's here?—Old Mirabel and my sister!—My dearest sister!

Enter Old MIRABEL and ORIANA.

Ori. My brother! Welcome.

Dug. Monsieur Mirabel! I'm heartily glad to see you.

Old Mir. Honest Mr. Dugard ! By the blood of the Mirabels, I 'm your most humble servant.

Dug. Why, sir, you 've cast your skin sure ; you 're brisk and gay, lusty health about you, no signs of age but your silver hairs.

Old Mir. Silver hairs ! Then they are quick-silver hairs, sir. Whilst I have golden pockets, let my hairs be silver an they will. Adsbud, sir, I can dance, and sing, and drink, and—no, I can't wench.—But, Mr. Dugard, no news of my son Bob in all your travels ?

Dug. Your son's come home, sir.

Old Mir. Come home ! Bob come home ! By the blood of the Mirabels, Mr. Dugard what say ye ?

Ori. Mr. Mirabel return'd, sir !

Dug. He 's certainly come, and you may see him within this hour or two.

Old Mir. Swear it, Mr. Dugard, presently swear it.

Dug. Sir, he came to town with me this morning ; I left him at the Bagnieurs, being a little disordered after riding, and I shall see him again presently.

Old Mir. What ! And he was ashamed to ask a blessing with his boots on ? A nice dog ! Well, and how fares the young rogue, ha ?

Dug. A fine gentleman, sir. He 'll be his own messenger.

Old Mir. A fine gentleman ! But is the rogue like me yet ?

Dug. Why, yes, sir ; he 's very like his mother, and as like you as most modern sons are to their fathers.

Old Mir. Why, sir, don't you think that I begat him ?

Dug. Why yes, sir ; you married his mother, and he inherits your estate. He 's very like you, upon my word.

Ori. And pray, brother, what 's become of his honest companion, Duretete ?

Dug. Who, the captain ? The very same he went abroad ; he 's the only Frenchman I ever knew that could not change.

Your son, Mr. Mirabel, is more obliged to Nature for that fellow's composition, than for his own; for he is more happy in Duretete's folly than his own wit. In short, they are as inseparable as finger and thumb; but the first instance in the world, I believe, of opposition in friendship.

Old Mir. Very well; will he be home to dinner, think ye?

Dug. Sir, he has ordered me to bespeak a dinner for us at Rousseau's, at a Louis d'or a head.

Old Mir. A Louis d'or a head! Well said, Bob; by the blood of the Mirabels, Bob's improv'd. But, Mr. Dugard, was it so civil of Bob to visit Monsieur Rousseau before his own natural father, eh! Heark'e, Oriana, what think you, now, of a fellow that can eat and drink ye a whole Louis d'or at a sitting? He must be as strong as Hercules; life and spirit in abundance. Before Gad, I do n't wonder at these men of quality, that their own wives can't serve them. A Louis d'or a head! 't is enough to stock the whole nation with bastards, 't is, faith. Mr. Dugard, I leave you with your sister.

[Exit.]

Dug. Well, sister, I need not ask you how you do, your looks resolve me; fair, tall, well shaped; you're almost grown out of my remembrance.

Ori. Why, truly, brother, I look pretty well, thank Nature and my toilette; I have 'scaped the jaundice, green-sickness, and the small-pox; I eat three meals a day, am very merry when up, and sleep soundly when I'm down.

Dug. But, sister, you remember that upon my going abroad, you would choose this old gentleman for your guardian; he's no more related to our family than Prester John, and I have no reason to think you mistrusted my management of your fortune: therefore, pray be so kind as to tell me, without reservation, the true cause of making such a choice.

Ori. Look'e, brother, you were going a rambling, and

'twas proper, lest I should go a rambling too, that someb'dy should take care of me. Old Monsieur Mirabel is an honest gentleman, was our father's friend, and has a young lady in his house, whose company I like, and who has chosen him for her guardian as well as I.

Dug. Who, Mademoiselle Bizarre?

Ori. The same; we live merrily together, without scandal or reproach; we make much of the old gentleman between us, and he takes care of us; "we eat what we like, go to "bed when we please, rise when we will," all the week we dance and sing, and upon Sundays go first to church, and then to the play. Now, brother, besides these motives for choosing this gentleman for my guardian, perhaps I had some private reasons.

Dug. Not so private as you imagine, sister; your love to young Mirabel's no secret, I can assure you, but so public, that all your friends are ashame'd on't.

Ori. O' my word then, my friends are very bashful; though I am afraid, sir, that those people are not ashamed enough at their own crimes, who have so many blushes to spare for the faults of their neighbours.

Dug. Ay, but sister, the people say—

Ori. Pshaw! hang the people, they'll talk treason, and profane their Maker; must we therefore infer that our king is a tyrant, and religion a cheat? Look'e, brother, their court of enquiry is a tavern, and their informer, claret: they think as they drink, and swallow reputations like loches; a lady's health goes briskly round with the glass, but her honour is lost in the toast.

Dug. Ay, but sister, there is still something—

Ori. If there be something, brother, 'tis none of the people's something; marriage is my thing, and I'll stick to 't.

Dug. Marriage! Young Mirabel marry! He'll build churches sooner. Take heed, sister, though your honour

stood proof to his home-bred assaults, you must keep a stricter guard for the future: he has now got the foreign air and the Italian softness; his wit's improved by converse, his behaviour finished by observation, and his assurances confirmed by success. Sister, I can assure you, he has made his conquests; and 'tis a plague upon your sex, to be the soonest deceiv'd by those very men that you know have been false to others.

"*Ori.* Then why will you tell me of his conquests? for, "I must confess, there is no title to a woman's favour so "engaging as the repute of a handsome dissimulation; "there is something of a pride to see a fellow lie at our "feet, that has triumphed over so many; and then, I don't "know, we fancy he must have something extraordinary "about him to please us, and that we have something en- "gaging about us to secure him; so we can't be quiet till "we put ourselves upon the lay of being both disappointed.

"*Dug.*" But then, sister, he's as fickle—

Ori. For God's sake, brother, tell me no more of his faults? for if you do, I shall run mad for him:—say no more, sir; let me but get him into the bands of matrimony, I'll spoil his wandering, I warrant him; I'll do his business that way, never fear.

Dug. Well, sister, I won't pretend to understand the engagements between you and your lover; I expect, when you have need of my counsel or assistance, you will let me know more of your affairs. Mirabel is a gentleman, and as far as my honour and interest can reach, you may command me to the furtherance of your happiness; in the mean time, sister, I have a great mind to make you a present of another humble servant, a fellow that I took up at Lyons, who has served me honestly ever since.

Ori. Then why will you part with him?

Dug. He has gain'd so insufferably on my good humour,

that he's grown too familiar ; but the fellow's cunning, and may be serviceable to you in your affair with Mirabel. Here he comes.

Enter PETIT.

Well, sir, have you been at Rousseau's ?

Pet. Yes, sir : and who should I find there but Mr. Mirabel and the captain, hatching as warmly over a tub of ice, as two hen pheasants over a brood. They would not let me bespeak any thing, for they had dined before I came.

Dug. Come, sir, you shall serve my sister, I shall still continue kind to you ; and if your lady recommends your diligence upon trial, I'll use my interest to advance you ; you have sense enough to expect preferment. Here, sirrah, here's ten guineas for thee, get thyself a drugged suit and a puff wig, and so—I dub thee gentleman usher. Sister, I must put myself in repair, you may expect me in the evening.—Wait on your lady home, Petit. [Exit Dugard.

Pet. A chair, a chair, a chair !

Ori. No, no, I'll walk home, 'tis but next door. [Exit.

SCENE II.

A Tavern, discovering Young MIRABEL and DURETETE rising from the table.

Mir. Welcome to Paris once more, my dear Captain, we have eat heartily, drank roundly, paid plentifully, and let it go for once. I liked every thing but our women, they looked so lean and tawdry, poor creatures ! 'Tis a sure sign the army is not paid. Give me the plump Venetian, brisk and sanguine, that smiles upon me like the glowing sun, and meets my lips like sparkling wine, her person shining as the glass, and spirit like the foaming liquor.

Dur. Ah, Mirabel ! Italy I grant you ; but for our

women here in France, they are such thin brawn fallen jades, a man may as well make a bedfellow of a cane chair.

Mir. France! a light, unseasoned country, nothing but feathers, foppery, and fashions: “we are fine indeed, so are our coach horses; men say we are courtiers, men abuse us; that we are wise in politics, *non credo seigneur*: that our women have wit; parrots, mere parrots, assurance, and a good memory, sets them up:”—There’s nothing on this side the Alps worth my humble service t’ ye—Ha, *Roma la santa!* Italy for my money: their customs, gardens, buildings, paintings, music, politics, wine, and women! the Paradise of the world—not pestered with a parcel of precise old gouty fellows, that would debar their children every pleasure that they themselves are past the sense of: commend me to the Italian familiarity: here, son, there’s fifty crowns, go pay your whore her week’s allowance.

Dur. Ay, these are your fathers for you, that understand the necessities of young men; not like our musty dads, who, because they cannot fish themselves, would muddy the water, and spoil the sport of them that can. But now you talk of the plump, what d’ye think of a Dutch woman?

Mir. A Dutch woman’s too compact; nay, every thing among them is so: a Dutch man is thick, a Dutch woman is squab, a Dutch horse is round, a Dutch dog is short, a Dutch ship is broad-bottom’d, and, in short, one would swear the whole produce of the country were cast in the same mould with their cheeses.

Dur. Ay, but Mirabel, you have forgot the English ladies.

Mir. The women of England were excellent, did they not take such unsufferable pains to ruin what nature has made so incomparably well; they would be delicate creatures indeed, could they but thoroughly arrive at the

French mien, or entirely let it alone ; for they only spoil a very good air of their own, by an awkward imitation of our's ; their parliaments and our taylors give laws to three kingdoms. But come, Duretete, let us mind the business in hand ; mistresses we must have, and must take up with the manufacture of the place, and, upon a competent diligence, we shall find those in Paris shall match the Italians from top to toe.

Dur. Ay, Mirabel, you will do well enough, but what will become of your friend ; you know I am so plaguy bashful, so naturally an ass upon these occasions, that—

Mir. Pshaw ! you must be bolder, man : travel three years, and bring home such a baby as bashfulness ! A great lusty fellow ! and a soldier ! fyey upon it.

Dur. Look'e, sir, I can visit and I can ogle a little, as thus, or thus now. Then I can kiss abundantly, and make a shift to—but if they chance to give me a forbidding look, as some women, you know, have a devilish cast with their eyes—or if they cry—What d'ye mean ? What d'ye take me for ?—Fye, sir, remember who I am, sir—A person of quality to be used at this rate ! 'Egad, I'm struck as flat as a frying-pan.

Mir. Words of course ! never mind them : turn you about upon your heel with a *jantée* air ; hum out the end of an old song ; cut a cross caper, and at her again.

Dur. [Imitates him.] No, hang it, 'twill never do—Oons, what did my father mean by sticking me up in an university, or to think that I should gain any thing by my head, in a nation whose genius lies all in their heels ! Well, if ever I come to have children of my own, they shall have the education of the country, they shall learn to dance before they can walk, and be taught to sing before they can speak.

Mir. Come, come, throw off that childish humour, put

on assurance, there's no avoiding it; stand all hazards, thou'rt a stout lusty fellow, and hast a good estate; look bluff, Hector, you have a good side-box face, a pretty impudent face; so, that's pretty well. This fellow went abroad like an ox, and is returned like an ass. [Aside.]

Dur. Let me see now how I look. [Pulls out a pocket glass, and looks on't.] A side-box face, say you! 'Egad I don't like it, Mirabel. Fye, sir, don't abuse your friends, I could not wear such a face for the best countess in Christendom.

Mir. Why can't you, blockhead, as well as I?

Dur. Why, thou hast impudence to set a good face upon any thing, I would change half my gold for half thy brass, with all my heart. Who comes here?—Odso, Mirabel, your father.

Enter Old MIRABEL.

Old Mir. Where's Bob? dear Bob!

Mir. Your blessing, sir.

Old Mir. My blessing! Damn ye, ye young rogue; why did not you come to see your father first, sirrah? My dear boy, I am heartily glad to see thee, my dear child, faith—Captain Duretete, by the blood of the Mirabels, I'm yours. Well, my lads, ye look bravely, faith. Bob, hast got any money left?

Mir. Not a farthing, sir.

Old Mir. Why, then I wont give thee a souse.

Mir. I did but jest, here's ten pistoles.

Old Mir. Why, then here's ten more; I love to be charitable to those that don't want it. Well, and how d'ye like Italy, my boys?

Mir. Oh, the garden of the world, sir; Rome, Naples, Venice, Milan, and a thousand others—all fine.

Old Mir. Ay, say you so ! And they say, that Chiari is very fine too.

Dur. Indifferent, sir, very indifferent ; a very scurvy air, the most unwholesome to a French constitution in the world.

Mir. Pshaw, nothing on't ; these rascally Gazetteers have misinformed you.

Old Mir. Misinformed me ! Oons, sir, were not we beaten there ?

Mir. Beaten, sir ! the French beaten !

Old Mir. Why, how was it, pray, sweet sir ?

Mir. Sir, the captain will tell you.

Dur. No, sir, your son will tell you.

Mir. The captain was in the action, sir.

Dur. Your son saw more than I, sir, for he was a looker on.

Old Mir. Confound you both for a brace of cowards : here are no Germans to over-hear you ; why don't you tell me how it was ?

Mir. Why, then you must know, that we marched up a body of the finest, bravest, well-dressed fellows in the universe ; our commanders at the head of us, all lace and feather, like so many beaux at a ball—I don't believe there was a man of them but could dance a *charmer*, Morbleau.

Old Mir. Dance ! very well, pretty fellows, faith !

Mir. We capered up to their very trenches, and there saw, peeping over, a parcel of scare-crow, olive-coloured, gunpowder fellows, as ugly as the devil.

Dur. 'Egad, I shall never forget the looks of them while I have breath to fetch.

Mir. They were so civil indeed, as to welcome us with their cannon ; but for the rest, we found them such unmanly, rude, unsociable dogs, that we grew tired of their company, and so we e'en danced back again.

Old Mir. And did ye all come back ?

Mir. No—two or three thousand of us stayed behind.

Old Mir. Why, Bob, why ?

Mir. Pshaw—because they could not come that night.—
But come, sir, we were talking of something else. Pray,
how does your lovely charge, the fair Oriana ?

Old Mir. Ripe, sir, just ripe ; you 'll find it better enga-
ging with her than the Germans, let me tell you. And
what would you say, my young Mars, if I had a Venus for
thee too ? Come, Bob, your apartment is ready, and pray
let your friend be my guest too, you shall command the
house between ye, and I 'll be as merry as the best of you.

" Mir. Bravely said, father.

" Let misers bend their age with niggard cares,
" And starve themselves to pamper hungry heirs ;
" Who, living, stint their sons what youth may crave,
" And make them revel o'er a father's grave.
" The stock on which I grow does still dispense
" Its genial sap into the blooming branch ;
" The fruit, he knows, from his own root is grown,
" And therefore soothes those passions once his own." [Exeunt.

ACT II. SCENE I.

Old Mirabel's House. ORIANA and BISARRE.

Bisarre.

AND you love this young rake, d'ye ?

Ori. Yes.

Bis. In spight of all his ill usage.

Ori. I can't help it.

Bis. What's the matter with ye ?

Ori. Pshaw!

Bis. Um!—before that any young, lying, swearing, flattering, rakehelly fellow should play such tricks with me, I would wear my teeth to the stumps with lime and chalk.—Oh, the devil take all your Cassandras and Cleopatras for me. Pr'ythee mind your airs, modes, and fashions; your stays, gowns, and furbelows. Hark'e, my dear, have you got home your furbelowed smocks yet?

Ori. Pr'ythee be quiet, Bizarre; you know I can be as mad as you, when this Mirabel is out of my head.

Bis. Pshaw! would he were out or in, or some way to make you easy. I warrant now, you'll play the fool when he comes, and say you love him, eh!

Ori. Most certainly; I can't dissemble, Bizarre:—besides, 'tis past that; we're contracted.

Bis. Contracted! alack a-day, poor thing. What you have changed rings, or broken an old broad piece between you! “Heark'e, child, ha'n't you broke something else “between ye?

“*Ori.* No, no, I can assure you.”

Bis. “Then what d'ye whine for? Whilst I kept that in “my power,” I would make a fool of any fellow in France. Well, I must confess, I do love a little coquetting with all my heart? my business should be to break gold with my lover one hour, and crack my promise the next; he should find me one day with a prayer-book in my hand, and with a play-book another. He should have my consent to buy the wedding-ring, and the next moment I would laugh in his face.

Ori. Oh, my dear, were there no greater tie upon my heart, than there is upon my conscience, I would soon throw the contract out of doors; but the mischief on't is, I am so fond of being ty'd, that I'm forced to be just, and the

strength of my passion keeps down the inclination of my sex. But here's the old gentleman.

Enter Old MIRABEL.

Old Mir. Where's my wenches ! Where's my two little girls ? Eh ! have a care, look to yourselves, faith, they're a coming, the travellers are a coming. Well ! which of you two will be my daughter-in-law now ? Bizarre, Bizarre, what say you, mad-cap ? Mirabel is a pure wild fellow.

Bis. I like him the worse.

Old Mir. You lie, hussey, you like him the better, indeed you do. What say you, my t'other little filbert ? he ?

Ori. I suppose the gentleman will choose for himself, sir.

Old Mir. Why, that's discreetly said, and so he shall.

Enter MIRABEL and DURETETE, they salute the Ladies.

Old Mir. Bob, heark'e, you shall marry one of these girls, sirrah.

Mir. Sir, I'll marry them both if you please.

Bis. [Aside.] He'll find that one may serve his turn.

Old Mir. Both ! why, you young dog, d'ye banter me ? Come, sir, take your choice. Duretete, you shall have your choice too, but Robin shall choose first. Come, sir, begin.

Mir. Well, I an't the first son that has made his father's dwelling a bawdy-house—let me see.

Old Mir. Well ; which do you like ?

Mir. Both.

Old Mir. But which will you marry ?

Mir. Neither.

Old Mir. Neither ! Don't make me angry now, Bob ; pray, don't make me angry. Look ye, sirrah, if I don't

dance at your wedding to-morrow, I shall be very glad to cry at your grave.

Mir. That's a bull, father.

Old Mir. A bull! Why, how now, ungrateful sir, did I make thee a man, that thou shouldst make me a beast?

Mir. Your pardon, sir; I only meant your expression.

Old Mir. Hark ye, Bob; learn better manners to your father before strangers. I won't be angry this time; but, oons, if ever you do it again, you rascal—Remember what I say—

Mir. Pshaw! what does the old fellow mean by mewing me up here with a couple of green girls?—Come, Duretete, will you go?

Ori. I hope, Mr. Mirabel, you ha'n't forgot—

Mir. No, no, madam, I ha'n't forgot; I have brought you a thousand little Italian curiosities. I'll assure you, madam, as far as a hundred pistoles would reach, I ha'n't forgot the least circumstance.

Ori. Sir, you misunderstand me.

Mir. Odso, the relics, madam, from Rome! I do remember now, you made a vow of chastity before my departure; a vow of chastity, or something like it, was it not, madam?

Ori. Oh, sir, I am answered at present.

[Exit.]

Mir. She was coming full mouth upon me with her contract. Would I might dispatch t' other!

Dur. Mirabel—that lady there, observe her; she's wondrous pretty, faith, and seems to have but few words: I like her mainly. Speak to her, man; pr'ythee, speak to her.

Mir. Madam, here's a gentleman, who declares—

Dur. Madam, don't believe him; I declare nothing.—What the devil do you mean, man?

Mir. He says, madam, that you are as beautiful as an angel.

Dur. He tells a damn'd lie, madam; I say no such thing. Are you mad, Mirabel?—Why, I shall drop down with shame.

Mir. And so, madam, not doubting but your ladyship may like him as well as he does you, I think it proper to leave you together. [Going, Duretete hold him.]

Dur. Hold, hold—Why, Mirabel, friend, sure you won't be so barbarous as to leave me alone. Pr'y thee speak to her for yourself, as it were. Lord, Lord, that a Frenchman should want impudence!

Mir. You look mighty demure, madam.—She's deaf, captain.

Dur. I had much rather have her dumb.

Mir. The gravity of your air, madam, promises some extraordinary fruits from your study, which moves us with curiosity to enquire the subject of your ladyship's contemplation.—Not a word!

Dur. I hope in the Lord she's speechless; if she be, she's mine this moment. Mirabel, d'ye think a woman's silence can be natural?

Bis. But the forms that logicians introduce, and which proceed from simple enumeration, are dubitable, and proceed only upon admittance—

Mir. Hoity toity! what a plague have we here?—Plato in petticoats!

Dur. Ay, ay, let her go on, man; she talks in my own mother-tongue.

Bis. 'T is exposed to invalidity from a contradictory instance; looks only upon common operations, and is infinite in its termination.

Mir. Rare pedantry!

Dur. Axioms, axioms ! self-evident principles.

Bis. Then the ideas wherewith the mind is pre-occupate. Oh, gentlemen, I hope you 'll pardon my cogitations ! I was involved in a profound point of philosophy ; but I shall discuss it somewhere else, being satisfied that the subject is not agreeable to your sparks that profess the vanity of the times.

[Exit.]

Mir. Go thy way, good wife Bias. Do you hear, Duretete ? Dost hear this starch'd piece of austerity ?

Dur. She's mine, man, she's mine ! My own talent to a T. I 'll match her in dialects, faith. I was seven years at the university, man, nursed up with *Barbara, Celarunt, Darii, Ferio, Baralipton*. Did you ever know, man, that 't was metaphysics made me an ass ? It was, faith. Had she talked a word of singing, dancing, plays, fashions, or the like, I had foundered at the first step ; but as she is, Mirabel, wish me joy.

Mir. You don't mean marriage, I hope ?

Dur. No, no, I 'm a man of more honour.

Mir. Bravely resolv'd, captain. Now, for thy credit, warm me this frozen snow-ball—'t will be a conquest above the Alps.

Dur. But will you promise to be always near me ?

Mir. Upon all occasions, never fear.

Dur. Why, then, you shall see me in two moments make an induction from my love to her hand, from her hand to her mouth, from her mouth to her heart, and so conclude in bed, *categorematice*.

Mir. Now the game begins, and my fool is entered. But here comes one to spoil my sport. Now shall I be teized to death with this old fashioned contract.—I should love her too, if I might do it my own way ; but she 'll do nothing without witnesses, forsooth. I wonder women can be so immodest.

Enter ORIANA.

Well, madam, why d' ye follow me?

Ori. Well, sir, why do you shun me?

Mir. 'T is my humour, madam; and I'm naturally swayed by inclination.

Ori. Have you forgot our contract, sir?

Mir. All I remember of that contract is, that it was made some three years ago—and that's enough, in conscience, to forget the rest on 't.

Ori. 'T is sufficient, sir, to recollect the passing of it; for in that circumstance, I presume, lies the force of the obligation.

Mir. Obligations, madam, that are forced upon the will, are no tie upon the conscience. I was a slave to my passion when I passed the instrument; but the recovery of my freedom makes the contract void.

" *Ori.* Sir, you can't make that a compulsion which was " your own choice; besides, sir, a subjection to your own " desires has not the virtue of a forcible constraint: and you " will find, sir, that to plead your passion for the killing of " a man, will hardly exempt you from the justice of the " punishment.

" *Mir.* And so, madam, you make the sin of murder " and the crime of a contract the very same, because that " hanging and matrimony are so much alike."

Ori. Come, Mr. Mirabel, these expressions I expected from the raillery of your humour; but I hope for very different sentiments from your honour and generosity.

Mir. Look ye, madam; as for my generosity, 'tis at your service with all my heart: I'll keep you a coach and six horses, if you please, only permit me to keep my honour to myself; " for I can assure you, madam, that the thing called

" honour is a circumstance absolutely unnecessary in a natural correspondence between male and female ; and he 's a madman that lays it out, considering its scarcity, upon any such trivial occasions. There 's honour required of us by our friends, and honour due to our enemies, and they return it to us again ; but I never heard of a man that left but an inch of his honour in a woman 's keeping, that could ever get the least account on 't." Consider, madam, you have no such thing among ye, and 't is a main point of policy to keep no faith with reprobates—Thou art a pretty little reprobate—and so get thee about thy business.

Ori. Well, sir, even all this I will allow to the gaiety of your temper : your travels have improved your talent of talking, but they are not of force, I hope, to impair your morals.

Mir. Morals ! Why, there it is again, now. " I tell thee, child, there is not the least occasion for morals in any business between you and I." Don't you know, that of all the commerce in the world, there is no such cozenage and deceit as in the traffic between man and woman ? We study, all our lives long, how to put tricks upon one another. " What is your business now from the time you throw away your artificial babies, but how to get natural ones with the most advantage ? No fowler lays abroad more nets for his game, nor a hunter for his prey, than you do to catch poor innocent men." Why do you sit three or four hours at your toilet in a morning ? Only with a villainous design to make some poor fellow a fool before night. " What are your languishing looks, your studied airs and affectations, but so many baits and devices, to delude men out of their dear liberty and freedom ?"—What d'ye sigh for ? What d'ye weep for ? What d'ye

pray for?—Why, for a husband: that is, you implore Providence to assist you in the just and pious design of making the wisest of his creatures a fool, and the head of the creation a slave.

Ori. Sir, I am proud of my power, and am resolved to use it.

Mir. Hold, hold, madam; not so fast. As you have variety of vanities to make coxcombs of us, so we have vows, oaths, and protestations of all sorts and sizes to make fools of you. “As you are very strange and whimsical creatures, “so we are allowed as unaccountable ways of managing “you.” And this, in short, my dear creature, is our present condition: I have sworn and lied briskly, to gain my ends of you; your ladyship has patched and painted violently, to gain your ends of me: but since we are both disappointed, let us make a drawn battle, and part clear on both sides.

Ori. With all my heart, sir; give me up my contract, and I'll never see your face again.

Mir. Indeed I won't, child.

Ori. What, sir, neither do one nor 't other?

Mir. No, you shall die a maid, unless you please to be otherwise upon my terms.

Ori. What do you intend by this, sir?

Mir. Why, to starve you into compliance. Look ye, you shall never marry any man; and you'd as good let me do you a kindness as a stranger.

Ori. Sir, you're a——

Mir. What am I, mistress?

Ori. A villain, sir.

Mir. I'm glad on 't. I never knew an honest fellow in my life but was a villain upon these occasions. Ha'n't you drawn yourself now into a very pretty dilemma?—Ha, ha,

ha ! the poor lady has made a vow of virginity, when she thought of making a vow to the contrary. Was ever poor woman so cheated into chastity ?

Ori. Sir, my fortune is equal to yours, my friends as powerful, and both shall be put to the test, to do me justice.

Mir. What, you 'll force me to marry you, will ye ?

Ori. Sir, the law shall.

Mir. But the law can 't force me to do any thing else, can it ?

Ori. Pshaw ! I despise thee, monster.

Mir. Kiss, and be friends, then. Do n't cry, child, and you shall have your sugar-plumb. Come, madam, d' ye think I could be so unreasonable as to make you fast all your life long ?—No, I did but jest ; you shall have your liberty. Here, take your contract, and give me mine.

Ori. No, I won't.

Mir. Eh !—What, is the girl a fool ?

Ori. No, sir, you shall find me cunning enough to do myself justice ; and since I must not depend upon your love, I 'll be revenged, and force you to marry me out of spite.

Mir. Then I 'll beat thee out of spite—and make a most confounded husband.

Ori. Oh, sir, I shall match you ; a good husband makes a good wife at any time.

Mir. I 'll rattle down your china about your ears.

Ori. And I 'll rattle about the city to run you in debt for more.

Mir. Your face-mending toilet shall fly out of the window.

Ori. And your face-mending periwig shall fly after it.

Mir. I 'll tear the furbelow off your clothes ; and when you swoon for vexation, you sha'n't have a penny to buy a bottle of hartshorn.

Ori. And you, sir, shall have hartshorn in abundance.

Mir. I'll keep as many mistresses as I have coach-horses.

Ori. And I'll keep as many gallants as you have grooms.

Mir. I'll lie with a woman before your face.

Ori. Have a care of your valet behind your back.

Mir. But, sweet madam, there is such a thing as a divorce.

Ori. But, sweet, sir, there is such a thing as alimony; so divorce on, and spare not. [Exit.]

Mir. Ay, that separate maintenance is the devil—there's their refuge. O' my conscience, one would take cuckoldom for a meritorious action, because the women are so handsomely rewarded for it. [Exit.]

SCENE II.

Changes to a large Parlour in the same House. Enter

DURETETE and PETIT.

Dur. And she is mighty peevish, you say?

Pet. Oh, sir, she has a tongue as long as my leg, and talks so crabbedly, you would think she always spoke Welch.

Dur. That's an odd language, methinks, for her philosophy.

Pet. But sometimes she will sit you half a day without speaking a word, and talk oracles all the while by the wrinkles of her forehead, and the motions of her eye-brows.

Dur. Nay, I shall match her in philosophical ogles, faith; that's my talent: I can talk best, you must know, when I say nothing.

Pet. But d'ye ever laugh, sir?

Dur. Laugh! Won't she endure laughing?

Pet. Why, she's a critic, sir; she hates a jest, for fear it should please her; and nothing keeps her in humour, but

what gives her the spleen. And then for logic, and all that, you know—

Dur. Ay, ay, I'm prepared; I have been practising hard words and no sense, this hour, to entertain her.

Pet. Then place yourself behind this screen, that you may have a view of her behaviour before you begin.

Dur. I long to engage her, lest I should forget my lesson.

Pet. Here she comes, sir: I must fly.

[Exit *Pet.* *Dur.* stands peeping behind the curtain.]

Enter *BISARRE* and *Maid*.

Bis. [With a book.] Pshaw, hang books! they sour our temper, spoil our eyes, and ruin our complexions.

[Throws away the book.]

Dur. Eh! the devil such a word there is in all Aristotle.

Bis. Come, wench, let's be free; call in the fiddle; there is nobody near us.

Enter Fiddler.

Dur. Would to the lord there was not!

Bis. Here, friend, a minuet—quicker time, ha!—Would we had a man or two.

Dur. [Stealing away] You shall have the devil sooner, my dear dancing philosopher.

Bis. Uds my life! here's one.

[Runs to *Duretete*, and hauls him back.]

Dur. Is all my learned preparation come to this?

Bis. Come, sir, don't be ashamed; that's my good boy. You're very welcome; we wanted such a one—Come, strike up—I know you dance well, sir; you're finely shap'd for it—Come, come, sir; quick, quick, you miss the time else.

Dur. But, madam, I come to talk with you.

Bis. Ay, ay, talk as you dance—talk as you dance:—
Come—

Dur. But we were talking of dialectics.

Bis. Hang dialectics! mind the time—quicker, sirrah.
[To the Fiddler.]—Come—And how d'ye find yourself now, sir?

Dur. In a fine breathing sweat, doctor.

Bis. All the better, patient, all the better. Come, sir, sing now, sing; I know you sing well; I see you have a singing face—a heavy, dull, sonata face.

Dur. Who, I sing?

Bis. Oh, you're modest, sir!—But come, sit down; closer, closer.—Here, a bottle of wine.—Come, sir, “fa, la, “ley;” sing, sir.

Dur. But, madam, I came to talk with you.

Bis. Oh, sir, you shall drink first!—Come, fill me a bumper—Here, sir, bless the king.

Dur. Would I were out of his dominions—By this light she'll make me drunk too.

Bis. Oh, pardon me, sir, you shall do me right!—fill it higher—Now, sir, can you drink a health under your leg?

Dur. Rare philosophy that, faith.

Bis. Come, off with it to the bottom—Now, how d'ye like me, sir?

Dur. Oh, mighty well, madam!

Bis. You see how a woman's fancy varies; sometimes splenetic and heavy, then gay and frolicsome.—And how do ye like the humour?

Dur. Good madam, let me sit down to answer you—for I am heartily tired.

Bis. Fie upon't! a young man, and tired!—Up, for shame, and walk about: action becomes us—a little faster, sir—What d'ye think now of my Lady La Pale, and Lady

Coquette, the duke's fair daughter, ha?—Are they not brisk lasses?—Then there is black Mrs. Bellair, and brown Mrs. Bellface.

Dur. They are all strangers to me, madam.

Bis. But let me tell you, sir, that brown is not always desppicable. Oh, lard, sir, if young Mrs. Bagatelle had kept herself single till this time o'day, what a beauty there had been! And then, you know the charming Mrs. Monkeylove, the fair gem of St. Germain's?

Dur. Upon my soul I don't.

Bis. And then you must have heard of the English beau, Spleenamore; how unlike a gentleman—

Dur. Hey—not a syllable on't, as I hope to be saved, madam.

Bis. No! Why, then, play me a jig:—Come, sir.

Dur. By this light, I cannot; faith, madam, I have sprained my leg.

Bis. Then sit you down, sir; and now tell me what's your business with me? What's your errand?—Quick, quick, dispatch—Odso, may be you are some gentleman's servant that has brought me a letter, or a haunch of venison.

Dur. 'Sdeath, madam! do I look like a carrier?

Bis. Oh, cry you mercy! I saw you just now; I mistook you, upon my word: you are one of the travelling gentlemen. And, pray, sir, how do all our impudent friends in Italy?

Dur. Madam, I came to wait upon you with a more serious intention than your entertainment has answered.

Bis. Sir, your intention of waiting on me was the greatest affront imaginable, however your expressions may turn it to a compliment. Your visit, sir, was intended as a prologue to a very scurvy play, of which Mr. Mirabel and you so handsomely laid the plot.—‘Marry! No, no, I'm a man

of more honour.'—Where's your honour—Where's your courage, now?—Ads my life, sir, I have a great mind to kick you. Go, go to your fellow-rake now; rail at my sex, and get drunk for vexation, and write a lampoon. But I must have you to know, sir, that my reputation is above the scandal of a libel; my virtue is sufficiently approved to those whose opinion is my interest: and, for the rest, let them talk what they will; for, when I please, I'll be what I please, in spite of you, and all mankind; and so, my dear man of honour, if you be tired con over this lesson, and sit there till I come to you.

[Runs off.]

Dur. Tum ti dum. [Sings.] Ha, ha, ha!—‘ Ads my life, sir, I have a great mind to kick you’—Oons and confusion! [Starts up.] Was ever man so abused?—Ay, Mirabel set me on.

Enter PETIT.

Pet. Well, sir, how d' ye find yourself?

Dur. You son of a nine-eyed whore, do you come to abuse me? I'll kick you with a vengeance, you dog.

[Petit runs off, and Duretete after him.

ACT III. SCENE I.

Continues. Enter Old and Young MIRABEL.

Old Mirabel.

Bob, come hither, Bob.

Mir. Your pleasure, sir?

Old Mir. Are not you a great rogue, sirrah?

Mir. That's a little out of my comprehension, sir; for I've heard say, that I resemble my father.

Old Mir. Your father is your very humble slave. I tell thee what, child, thou art a very pretty fellow, and I love thee heartily ; and a very great villain, and I hate thee mortally.

Mir. Villain, sir ! then I must be a very impudent one ; for I can't recollect any passage of my life that I'm ashamed of.

Old Mir. Come hither, my dear friend, dost see this picture ?

[Shows him a little picture.]

Mir. Oriana's ! Pshaw !

Old Mir. What, sir, won't you look upon it ? — Bob, dear Bob, pr'y thee come hither now. Dost want any money, child ?

Mir. No, sir.

Old Mir. Why, then, here's some for thee. Come here now. How canst thou be so hard-hearted an unnatural, an unmannerly rascal, (do n't mistake me, child ; I an't angry) as to abuse this tender, lovely, good-natur'd, dear rogue ?

Why, she sighs for thee, and cries for thee, pouts for thee, and sobs for thee, the poor little heart of it is like to burst. Come, my dear boy, be good-natured, like your own father, be now—and then see here, read this—the effigies of the lovely Oriana, with ten thousand pounds to her portion ; ten thousand pounds, you dog ; ten thousand pounds, you rogue ; how dare you refuse a lady with ten thousand pounds, you impudent rascal ?

Mir. Will you hear me speak, sir ?

Old Mir. Hear you speak, sir ! If you had ten thousand tongues, you could not out-talk ten thousand pounds, sir.

Mir. Nay, sir, if you won't hear me, I'll begone, sir ; I'll take post for Italy this moment.

Old Mir. Ah, the fellow knows I won't part with him !

[*Aside.*] Well, sir, what have you to say ?

Mir. The universal reception, sir, that marriage has had in the world, is enough to fix it for a public good, and to draw every body into the common cause; but there are some constitutions like some instruments, so peculiarly singular, that they make tolerable music by themselves, but never do well in a concert.

Old Mir. Why, this is reason I must confess, but yet it is nonsense too; for though you should reason like an angel, if you argue yourself out of a good estate, you talk like a fool.

Mir. But, sir, if you bind me into bondage with the riches of Cræsus, you leave me but a beggar for want of my liberty.

Old Mir. Was ever such a perverse fool heard?—’Sdeath, sir, why did I give you education? Was it to dispute me out of my senses? Of what colour, now, is the head of this cane? You’ll say ’tis white, and, ten to one, make me believe it too. I thought that young fellows studied to get money.

Mir. No, sir, I have studied to despise it: my reading was not to make me rich, but happy, sir.

Old Mir. There he has me again now. But, sir, did not I marry to oblige you?

Mir. To oblige me, sir! in what respect, pray?

Old Mir. Why, to bring you into the world, sir; wasn’t that an obligation?

Mir. And because I would have it still an obligation, I avoid marriage.

Old Mir. How is that, sir?

Mir. Because I would not curse the hour I was born.

Old Mir. Look ye, friend, you may persuade me out of my designs, but I’ll command you out of yours; and though you may convince my reason that you are in the right, yet

there is an old attendant of sixty-three, called positiveness, which you nor all the wits in Italy shall ever be able to shake. So, sir, you 're a wit, and, I 'm a father; you may talk; but I 'll be obeyed.

Mir. This it is to have the son a finer gentleman than the father; they first give us breeding that they don't understand, then they turn us out of doors because we are wiser than themselves. But I 'm a little beforehand with the old gentleman. [Aside.] Sir, you have been pleased to settle a thousand pounds sterling a year upon me; in return of which I have a very great honour for you and your family, and shall take care that your only and beloved son shall do nothing to make him hate his father, or to hang himself. So, dear sir, I 'm your very humble servant. [Runs off.

Old Mir. Here, sirrah, rogue, Bob, villain!

Enter DUGARD.

Dug. Ah, sir! 't is but what he deserves.

Old Mir. 'T is false, sir, he don't deserve it: what have you to say against my boy, sir?

Dug. I shall only repeat your own words.

Old Mir. What have you to do with my words! I have swallowed my words already, I have eaten them up, and how can you come at them, sir?

Dug. Very easy, sir; 't is but mentioning your injured ward, and you will throw them up again immediately.

Old Mir. Sir, your sister was a foolish young flirt, to trust any such young, deceitful, rake-helly rogue, like him.

Dug. Cry your mercy, old gentleman! I thought we should have the words again.

Old Mir. And what then? 'T is the way with young fellows to slight old gentlemen's words; you never mind them

when you ought. I say that Bob's an honest fellow, and who dares deny it?

Enter BISARRE.

Bis. That dare I, sir; I say, that your son is a wild, foppish, whimsical, impertinent coxcomb; and were I abused as this gentleman's sister is, I would make it an Italian quarrel, and poison the whole family.

Dug. Come, sir, 'tis no time for trifling; my sister is abused, you are made sensible of the affront, and your honour is concerned to see her redressed.

Old Mir. Look ye, Mr. Dugard, good words go farthest. I will do your sister justice, but it must be after my own rate; nobody must abuse my son but myself: for although Robin be a sad dog, yet he's nobody's puppy but my own.

Bis. Ay, that's my sweet-natured, kind old gentleman. [Wheedling him.] We will be good then, if you'll join with us in the plot.

Old Mir. Ah, you coaxing young baggage! what plot can you have to wheedle a fellow of sixty-three?

Bis. A plot that sixty-three is only good for, to bring other people together, sir; "a Spanish plot, less dangerous than that of eighty-eight; and" you must act the Spaniard, because your son will least suspect you; and if he should, your authority protects you from a quarrel, to which Oriana is unwilling to expose her brother.

Old Mir. And what part will you act in the business, madam?

Bis. Myself, sir; my friend has grown a perfect changeling: these foolish hearts of ours spoil our heads presently; the fellows no sooner turn knaves, but we turn fools. But I am still myself, and he may expect the most severe usage from me, because I neither love him nor hate him. [Exit.

Old Mir. Well said, Mrs. Paradox ; but, sir, who must open the matter to him ?

Dug. Petit, sir, who is our engineer-general. And here he comes.

Enter PETIT.

Pet. Oh, sir, more discoveries ! are all friends about us ?

Dug. Ay, ay, speak freely.

Pet. You must know, sir—Ods my life, I'm out of breath—You must know, sir—you must know—

Old Mir. What the devil must we know, sir ?

Pet. That I have [*Pants and blows.*] bribed, sir—bribed —your son's secretary of state.

Old Mir. Secretary of state ! who's that, for Heaven's sake ?

Pet. His valet de chambre, sir. You must know, sir, that the intrigue lay folded up with his master's clothes ; and when he went to dust the embroidered suit, the secret flew out of the right pocket of his coat, in a whole swarm of your crambo songs, short-footed odes, and long-legged Pindarics.

Old Mir. Impossible !

Pet. Ah, sir, he has loved her all along ! there was Oriana in every line ; but he hates marriage. Now, sir, this plot will stir up his jealousy ; and we shall know, by the strength of that, how to proceed farther. Come, sir, let's about it with speed.

'Tis expedition gives our king the sway ;

For expedition to the French give way :

Swift to attack, or swift—to run away.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter MIRABEL and BISARRE, passing carelessly by one another.

Bis. [Aside.] I wonder what she can see in this fellow, to like him ?

Mir. [Aside.] I wonder what my friend can see in this girl, to admire her?

Bis. [Aside.] A wild, foppish, extravagant rake-hell.

Mir. [Aside.] A light, whimsical, impertinent mad-cap.

Bis. Whom do you mean, sir?

Mir. Whom do you mean, madam?

Bis. A fellow that has nothing left to re-establish him for a human creature, but a prudent resolution to hang himself?

Mir. There is a way, madam, to force me to that resolution.

Bis. I'll do't with all my heart.

Mir. Then you must marry me.

Bis. Look ye, sir, don't think your ill manners to me shall excuse your ill usage of my friend; nor, by fixing a quarrel here, to divert my zeal for the absent; for I'm resolved, nay, I come prepared to make you a panegyric, that shall mortify your pride like any modern dedication.

Mir. And I, madam, like a true modern patron, shall hardly give you thanks for your trouble.

Bis. Come, sir, to let you see what little foundation you have for your dear sufficiency, I'll take you to pieces.

Mir. And what piece will you choose?

Bis. Your heart to be sure; because I would get presently rid on't; your courage I would give to a Hector, your wit to a lewd play-maker, your honour to an attorney, your body to the physicians, and your soul to its master.

Mir. I had the oddest dream last night of the Duchess of Burgundy: methought the furbelows of her gown were pinned up so high behind, that I could not see her head for her tail.

Bis. The creature don't mind me! Do you think, sir, that your humourous impertinence can divert me? No, sir, I'm above any pleasure that you can give, but that of seeing

you miserable. And mark me, sir, my friend, my injured friend, shall yet be doubly happy, and you shall be a husband as much as the rites of marriage, and the breach of them can make you.

[Here Mirabel pulls out a Virgil, and reads to himself, while she speaks.]

Mir. [Reading.] *At Regina dolos (quis fallere possit amantem?)*

Dissimulare etiam sperasti, perfide tantum—Very true.

Posse nefas.

By your favour, friend Virgil, 't was but a rascally trick of your hero to forsake poor pug so inhumanly.

Bis. I don't know what to say to him. The devil—What's Virgil to do with us, sir?

Mir. Very much, madam, the most *à-propos* in the world—for, what should I chop upon, but the very place where the perjured rogue of a lover and the forsaken lady are battling it tooth and nail. Come, madam, spend your spirits no longer, we'll take an easier method; I'll be *Æneas* now, and you shall be Dido, and we'll rail by book. Now, for you, madam Dido.

*Nec te noster amor, nec te data dextera quondam,
Nec moritura tenet creduli funera Dido—*

Ah, poor Dido!

[Looking at her.]

Bis. Rudeness, affronts, impatience! I could almost start out even to manhood, and want but a weapon as long as his to fight him upon the spot. What shall I say?

Mir. Now she rants.

Quæ quibus anteferam? jam, jam nec maxima Juno.

Bis. A man! No, the woman's birth was spirited away.

Mir. Right, right, madam, the very words.

Bis. And some pernicious elf left it in the cradle with human shape to palliate growing mischief.

[Both speak together, and raise their voices by degrees.

Mir. *Perfide, sed duris genuit te cautibus horrens
Caucasus, Hyrcanæque admirunt Ubra Tigres.*

Bis. Go, sir, fly to your midnight revels.—

Mir. Excellent!

*I sequere Italianum ventis, pete regna per undas,
Spero equidem mediis, si quid pia numina possunt.*

[Together again.

Bis. Converse with imps of darkness of your make, your nature starts at justice, and shivers at the touch of virtue. Now the devil take his impudence, he vexes me so, I do n't know whether to cry or laugh at him. [Aside.

Mir. Bravely performed, my dear Libyan; I'll write the tragedy of Dido, and you shall act the part: but you do nothing at all, unless you fret yourself into a fit; for here the poor lady is stifled with vapours, drops into the arms of her maids; and the cruel, barbarous, deceitful wanderer, is, in the very next line, called pious Æneas.—There's authority for ye.

*Sorry indeed Æneas stood
To see her in a pout;
But Jove himself, who ne'er thought good
To stay a second bout,
Commands him off with all his crew,
And leaves poor Dy, as I leave you.* [Runs off.

Bis. Go thy ways, for a dear, mad, deceitful, agreeable fellow. O' my conscience, I must excuse Oriana.

*That lover soon his angry fair disarms,
Whose slighting pleases, and whose faults are charms.* [Exit.

Enter PETIT, runs about to every door, and knocks.

Pet. Mr. Mirabel! Sir, where are you? no where to be found?

Enter MIRABEL.

Mir. What's the matter, Petit?

Pet. Most critically met—Ah, sir, that one who has followed the game so long, and brought the poor hare just under his paws, should let a mongrel cur chop in, and run away with the puss.

Mir. If your worship can get out of your allegories, be pleased to tell me, in three words, what you mean.

Pet. Plain, plain, sir. Your mistress and mine is going to be married.

Mir. I believe you lie, sir.

Pet. Your humble servant, sir.

[Going.]

Mir. Come hither, Petit. Married, say you?

Pet. No, sir, 'tis no matter; I only thought to do you a service, but I shall take care how I confer my favours for the future.

Mir. Sir, I beg ten thousand pardons. [Bowing low.]

Pet. 'Tis enough, sir—I come to tell you, sir, that Oriana is this moment to be sacrificed; married past redemption.

Mir. I understand her; she'll take a husband out of spight to me, and then out of love to me she will make him a cuckold: “'tis ordinary with women to marry one person “for the sake of another, and to throw themselves into the “arms of one they hate, to secure their pleasure with the “man they love.”—But who is the happy man?

Pet. A lord, sir.

Mir. I'm her ladyship's most humble servant. "A train
"and a title, hey! Room for my lady's coach! a front row
"in the box for her ladyship! lights, lights for her ho-
"nour!" Now must I be a constant attender at my lord's
levee, to work my way to my lady's couchee—a countess, I
presume, sir.

Pet. A Spanish count, sir, that Mr. Dugard knew abroad,
is come to Paris, saw your mistress yesterday, marries her
to-day, and whips her into Spain to-morrow.

Mir. Ay; is it so? and must I follow my cuckold over
the Pyrenees? Had she married within the precincts of a
billet-doux, I would be the man to lead her to church; but,
as it happens, I'll forbid the banns. Where is this mighty
Don?

Pet. Have a care, sir, he's a rough cross-grained piece,
and there's no tampering with him; would you apply to
Mr. Dugard, or the lady herself, something might be done,
for it is in despight to you, that the business is carried on
so hastily. Odso, sir, here he comes. I must be gone. [Exit.

Enter Old MIRABEL, dressed in a Spanish habit, leading
ORIANA.

Ori. Good, my lord, a nobler choice had better suited
your lordship's merit. My person, rank, and circumstance,
expose me as the public theme of raillery, and subject me so
to injurious usage, my lord, that I can lay no claim to any
part of your regard, except your pity.

Old Mir. Breathes he vital air, that dare presume
With rude behaviour to profane such excellence?

Shew me the man—

And you shall see how sudden my revenge
Shall fall upon the head of such presumption.

Is this thing one?

[Strutting up to Mirabel.

Mir. Sir!

Ori. Good, my lord—

Old Mir. If he, or any he—

Ori. Pray, my lord, the gentleman's a stranger.

Old Mir. O, your pardon, sir—but if you had—remember, sir—the lady now is mine, her injuries are mine; therefore, sir, you understand me.—Come, madam.

[Leads *Oriana* to the door, she goes off, *Mirabel* runs to his father, and pulls him by the sleeve.

Mir. Ecoute, Monsieur le Count.

Old Mir. Your business, sir.

Mir. Boh!

Old Mir. Boh! What language is that, sir?

Mir. Spanish, my lord.

Old Mir. What d' ye mean?

Mir. This, sir. [Trips up his heels.]

Old Mir. A very concise quarrel, truly—I'll bully him—Trinidade Seigneur, give me fair play. [Offering to rise.]

Mir. By all means, sir. [Takes away his sword.]—Now, Signeur, where's that bombast look, and fustian face your Countship wore just now? [Strikes him.]

Old Mir. The rogue quarrels well, very well, my own son, right!—But hold, sirrah, no more jesting, I'm your father, sir, your father!

Mir. My father! Then by this light I could find in my heart to pay thee. [Aside.] Is the fellow mad?—Why sure, sir, I ha'n't frightened you out of your senses?

Old Mir. But you have, sir.

Mir. Then I'll beat them into you again.

[Offers to strike him.]

Old Mir. Why, rogue—Bob, dear Bob, don't you know me, child?

Mir. Ha, ha, ha! the fellow's downright distracted. Thou miracle of impudence! wouldst thou make me believe that

such a grave gentleman as my father would go a masquera-
ding thus? That a person of threescore and three would
run about in a fool's coat to disgrace himself and family?
Why, you impudent villain, do you think I will suffer such
an affront to pass upon my honoured father, my worthy fa-
ther, my dear father? 'Sdeath, sir, mention my father but
once again, and I'll send your soul to thy grandfather this
minute!

[Offering to stab him.]

Old Mir. Well, well, I am not your father.

Mir. Why then, sir, you are the saucy, hectoring Spa-
niard, and I'll use you accordingly.

Old Mir. The devil take the Spaniards, sir, we have all
got nothing but blows since we began to take their part.

Enter DUGARD, ORIANA, PETIT, and Maid. Dugard
runs to Young Mirabel, the rest to Old Mirabel.

Dug. Fye, fye, Mirabel, murder your father!

Mir. My father! What is the whole family mad?—Give
me way, sir, I won't be held.

Old Mir. No! nor I neither; let me be gone, pray.

[Offering to go.]

Mir. My father!

Old Mir. Ay, you dog's face! I am your father, for I
have bore as much for thee, as your mother ever did,

Mir. O ho! then this was a trick it seems, a design, a
contrivance, a stratagem—Oh! how my bones ach!

Old Mir. Your bones, sirrah, why yours?

Mir. Why, sir, ha'n't I been beating⁴ my own flesh and
blood all this while. O, madam, [To Oriana.] I wish your
ladyship joy of your new dignity. Here was a contrivance
indeed!

Pet. The contrivance was well enough, sir, for they im-
posed upon us all.

Mir. Well, my dear Dulcinea, did your Don Quixote battle for you bravely? My father will answer for the force of my love.

Ori. Pray, sir, do n't insult the misfortunes of your own creating.

Dug. My prudence will be counted cowardice, if I stand tamely now.—[Comes up between Mirabel and his Sister.] Well, sir!

Mir. Well, sir! Do you take me for one of your tenants, sir, that you put on your landlord's face at me?

Dug. On what presumption, sir, dare you assume thus?

[Draws.

Old Mir. What's that to you, sir.

[Draws.

Pet. Help! help! the lady faints.

[Oriana falls into her Maid's arms.

Mir. Vapours! vapours! she'll come to herself.—“ If it be an angry fit, a dram of assafœtida—If jealousy, harts—“ horn in water—If the mother, burnt feathers—If grief, “ ratifa—If it be straight stays, or corns, there's nothing “ like a dram of plain brandy.”

Ori. Hold off, give me air—O, my brother, would you preserve my life, endanger not your own; would you defend my reputation, leave it to itself; 't is a dear vindication that's purchas'd by the sword; for though our champion proves victorious, yet our honour is wounded.

Old Mir. Ay, and your lover may be wounded, that's another thing. But I think you are pretty brisk again, my child.

Ori. Ay, sir, my indisposition was only a pretence to divert the quarrel; the capricious taste of your sex excuses this artifice in ours.

For often when our chief perfections fail,

Our chief defects with foolish men prevail.

[Exit.

Pet. Come, Mr. Dugard, take courage, there is a way still left to fetch him again.

Old Mir. Sir, I'll have no plot that has any relation to Spain.

Dug. I scorn all artifice whatsoever, my sword shall do her justice.

Pet. Pretty justice, truly! Suppose you run him through the body; you run her through the heart at the same time.

Old Mir. And me through the head—rot your sword—Sir, we'll have plots. Come, Petit, let's hear.

Pet. What if she pretended to go into a nunnery, and so bring him about to declare himself?

Dug. That, I must confess, has a face.

Old Mir. A face! a face like an angel, sir. Ad's my life, sir, 'tis the most beautiful plot in Christendom. We'll about it immediately.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

"The Street. DURETETE and MIRABEL.

"*Dur.* [In a passion.] And though I can't dance, nor sing, nor talk like you, yet I can fight, you know I can, sir.

"*Mir.* I know thou can't, man.

"*Dur.* 'Sdeath, sir, and I will: let me see the proudest man alive make a jest of me?

"*Mir.* But I'll engage to make you amends.

"*Dur.* Danced to death! Baited like a bear! Ridiculed! Threatened to be kicked! Confusion!—Sir, you set me on, and I will have satisfaction; all mankind will point at me.

"*Mir.* [Aside.] I must give this thunderbolt some pas-

" sage, or 'twill break upon my own head—Look 'e,
" Duretete, what do these gentlemen laugh at?

" Enter two Gentlemen.

" Dur. At me to be sure—Sir, what made you laugh
" at me?

" 1st Gent. You are mistaken, sir; if we were merry, we
" had a private reason.

" 2d Gent. Sir, we don't know you.

" Dur. Sir, I'll make you know me; mark and observe
" me, I won't be named; it sha'n't be mentioned, nor
" even whispered in your prayers at church. 'Sdeath, sir,
" d' ye smile?

" 1st Gent. Not I, upon my word.

" Dur. Why then, look grave as an owl in a barn, or a
" friar with his crown a shaving.

" Mir. [Aside to the Gent.] Do n't be bullied out of your
" humour, gentlemen; the fellow's mad, laugh at him,
" and I'll stand by you.

" 1st Gent. 'Egad, and so we will.

" Both. Ha, ha, ha.

" Dur. Very pretty. [Draws.] She threatened to kick
" me. Ay then, you dogs, I'll murder ye.

" [Fights and beats them off; Mirabel runs over to his side.

" Mir. Ha, ha, ha! bravely done, Duretete, there you
" had him, noble Captain. Hey, they run, they run, *victoria!*—*victoria!*—Ha, ha, ha—how happy am I in an ex-
" cellent friend! Tell me of your virtuosos and men of
" sense, a parcel of sour-faced splenetic rogues—a man of
" my thin constitution should never want a fool in his com-
" pany: I don't affect your fine things that improve the
" understanding, but hearty laughing to fatten my carcase:
" and in my conscience, a man of sense is as melancholy

“ without a coxcomb, as a lion without a jackall ; he hunts
“ for our diversion, starts game for our spleen, and perfectly
“ feeds us with pleasure.

“ I hate the man who makes acquaintance nice,
“ And still discreetly plagues me with advice ;
“ Who moves by caution, and mature delays,
“ And must give reasons for whate'er he says.
“ The man, indeed, whose converse is so full,
“ Makes me attentive, but it makes me dull :
“ Give me the careless rogue, who never thinks,
“ That plays the fool as freely as he drinks.
“ Not a buffoon, who is buffoon by trade,
“ But one that nature, not his wants have made ;
“ Who still is merry, but does ne'er design it ;
“ And still is ridicul'd, but ne'er can find it.
“ Who, when he's most in earnest is the best ;
“ And his most grave expressions is a jest.” [Exeunt.

ACT IV. SCENE I.

Old Mirabel's House. Enter Old MIRABEL and DUGARD.

Dugard.

THE lady abbess is my relation, and privy to the plot :
“ your son has been there, but had no admittance beyond
“ the privilege of the grate, and there my sister refus'd to
“ see him. He went off more nettled at his repulse, than I
“ thought his gaiety could admit.”

Old Mir. Ay, ay, this nunnery will bring him about, I warrant ye.

Enter DURETETE.

Dur. Here, where are ye all?—O, Mr. Mirabel! you have done fine things for your posterity.—And you, Mr. Dugard, may come to answer this—I come to demand my friend at your hands; restore him, sir, or— [To Old Mir.

Old Mir. Restore him!—What, d'ye think I have got him in my trunk, or my pocket?

Dur. Sir, he's mad, and you are the cause on 't.

Old Mir. That may be; for I was as mad as he when I begot him.

Dug. Mad, sir! what d'ye mean?

Dur. What do you mean, sir, by shutting up your sister yonder to talk like a parrot through a cage? or a decoy duck, to draw others into the snare?—Your son, sir, because she has deserted him, he has forsaken the world; and in three words has—

Old Mir. Hanged himself!

Dur. The very same—turned friar.

Old Mir. You lie, sir, 'tis ten times worse. Bob turned friar!—Why should the fellow shave his foolish crown, when the same razor may cut his throat?

Dur. If you have any command, or you any interest over him, lose not a minute: he has thrown himself into the next monastery, and has ordered me to pay off his servants, and discharge his equipage.

Old Mir. Let me alone to ferret him out; I'll sacrifice the abbot, if he receives him; I'll try whether the spiritual or the natural father has the most right to the child. But, dear captain, what has he done with his estate?

Dur. Settled it upon the church, sir.

Old Mir. The church!—Nay, then the devil won't get him out of their clutches—Ten thousand livres a year

upon the church! 'Tis downright sacrilege.—Come, gentlemen, all hands to work; for half that sum, one of these monasteries shall protect you a traitor from the law, a rebellious wife from her husband, and a disobedient son from his own father. [Exit.

Dug. But will ye persuade me that he's gone to a monastery?

Dur. Is your sister gone to the *filles repentis*? I tell you, sir, she's not fit for the society of repenting maids.

Dug. Why so, sir?

Dur. Because she's neither one nor t'other; she's too old to be a maid, and too young to repent.

[Exit, Dugard after him.

SCENE II.

The Inside of a Monastery: ORIANA in a Nun's Habit, and BISARRE.

Ori. I hope, Bizarre, there is no harm in jesting with this religious habit.

Bis. To me, the greatest jest in the habit is taking it in earnest: I don't understand this imprisoning people with the keys of Paradise, nor the merit of that virtue which comes by constraint—" Besides, we may own to one another that we are in the worst company when among ourselves; for our private thoughts run us into those desires, which our pride resists from the attack of the world; and, you may remember, the first woman met the devil when she retired from her man.

" Ori. But I'm reconciled, methinks, to the mortification of a nunnery; because I fancy the habit becomes me.

" Bis. A well contrived mortification, truly, that makes a

" woman look ten times handsomer than she did before!—
" Ay, my dear, were there any religion in becoming dress,
" our sex's devotion were rightly plac'd; for our toilets
" would do the work of the altar; we should all be
" canonized.

" *Ori.* But don't you think there is a great deal of merit
" in dedicating a beautiful face and person to the service of
" religion?

" *Bis.* Not half so much as devoting them to a pretty
" fellow: if our feminality had no business in this world,
" why was it sent hither? Let us dedicate our beautiful
" minds to the service of Heaven; and, for our handsome
" persons, they become a box at the play, as well as a pew
" in the church.

" *Ori.* But the vicissitude of fortune, the inconstancy of
" man, with other disappointments of life, require some
" place of religion, for a refuge from their persecution.

" *Bis.* Ha, ha, ha! and do you think there is any devo-
" tion in a fellow's going to church, when he takes it only
" for a sanctuary? Don't you know that religion consists
" in charity with all mankind; and that you should never
" think of being friends with Heaven till you have quar-
" relled with all the world." Come, come, mind your bu-
" siness, Mirabel loves you, 'tis now plain, and hold him
to 't; give fresh orders that he sha'n't see you: we get
more by hiding our faces sometimes, than by exposing them.
A very mask, you see, whets desire; but a pair of keen
eyes, through an iron grate, fire double upon them, with
view and disguise. But I must be gone upon my affairs; I
have brought my captain about again.

Ori. But why will you trouble yourself with that coxcomb?

Bis. Because he is a coxcomb. Had I not better have a
lover like him, that I can make an ass of, than a lover like

your's, to make a fool of me. [Knocking below.] A message from Mirabel, I'll lay my life. [She runs to the door.] Come hither, run, thou charming nun, come hither.

Ori. What's the news?

[Runs to her.]

Bis. Do n't you see who's below?

Ori. I see nobody but a friar.

Bis. Ah! thou poor blind Cupid! "O' my conscience," these hearts of ours spoil our heads "instantly! the fellows "no sooner turn knaves, than we turn fools."—A friar!—Do n't you see a villainous genteel mien under that cloak of hypocrisy?—the loose, careless air of a tall, rake-helly fellow?

Ori. As I live, Mirabel turned friar! I hope, in Heaven, he's not in earnest.

Bis. In earnest: ha, ha, ha! are you in earnest?—"Now's your time; this disguise has he certainly taken "for a passport, to get in and try your resolution; stick to "your habit, to be sure; treat him with disdain, rather "than anger—for pride becomes us more than passion." Remember what I say, if you would yield to advantage, and hold out the attack: to draw him on, keep him off to be sure.

The cunning gamesters never gain too fast,

But lose at first, to win the more at last.

[Exit.]

"Ori. His coming puts me into some ambiguity. I don't know how; I don't fear him, but I mistrust myself.—"Would he were not come; yet I would not have him gone neither; I'm afraid to talk with him, but I love to see him though.

"*What a strange power has this fantastic fire,*

"*That makes us dread even what we most desire!"*

Enter MIRABEL in a Friar's habit.

Mir. Save you, sister—Your brother, young lady, having a regard for your soul's health, has sent me to prepare you for the sacred habit by confession.

Ori. That's false—the cloven foot already. [Aside.] My brother's care I own; and to you, sacred sir, I confess, that the great crying sin which I have long indulged, and now prepare to expiate, was love.—My morning thoughts, my evening prayers, my daily musings, nightly cares, was love! “ My present peace, my future bliss, the joy of earth, and “ hopes of Heaven, I all contemned for love!”

Mir. She's downright stark mad in earnest. Death and confusion, I have lost her! [Aside.] You confess your fault, madam, in such moving terms, that I could almost be in love with the sin.

Ori. Take care, sir; crimes, like virtues, are their own rewards; my chief delight became my only grief: he, in whose breast I thought my heart secure, turned robber, and despoiled the treasure that he kept.

Mir. Perhaps that treasure he esteems so much, that, like the miser, though afraid to use it, he reserves it safe.

Ori. No, holy father: who can be miser in another's wealth, that's prodigal of his own? His heart was open, shar'd to all he knew; and what, alas! must then become of mine? But the same eyes that drew this passion in, shall send it out in tears, to which now hear my vow.

Mir. [Discovering himself.] No, my fair angel, but let me repent; here on my knees behold the criminal that vows repentance his.—Ha! no concern upon her!

“ *Ori.* This turn is odd, and the time has been, that “ such a sudden change would have surprised me into some “ confusion.

“ Mir. Restore that happy time, for I am now returned
“ to myself, for I want but pardon to deserve your favour,
“ and here I’ll fix till you relent and give it.

“ Ori. Grovelling, sordid man; why would you act a
“ thing to make you kneel, monarch in your pleasures, to
“ be slave to your faults?—Are all the conquests of your
“ wandering sway, your wit, your humour, fortune, all re-
“ duced to the base cringing of a bended knee? Servile and
“ poor!—Pray Heaven this change be real. [Aside.]

“ Mir. I come not here to justify my fault, but my sub-
“ mission, for though there be a meanness in this humble
“ posture, ’t is nobler still to bend when justice calls, than
“ to resist conviction.

“ Ori. No more—Thy oft repeated violated words re-
“ proach my weak belief, ’t is the severest calumny to hear
“ thee speak; that humble posture which once could raise,
“ now mortifies my pride. How canst thou hope for pardon
“ from one whom you affront by asking it?

“ Mir. [Rises.] In my own cause I’ll plead no more;
“ but give me leave to intercede for you against the hard
“ injunctions of that habit, which, for my fault, you wear.

“ Ori. Surprising insolence! My greatest foe pretends to
“ give me counsel; but I am too warm upon so cool a sub-
“ ject. My resolutions, sir, are fixed! but as our hearts
“ were united with the ceremony of our eyes, so I shall
“ spare some tears to the separation. [Weeps.] That’s all;
“ farewell.

“ Mir. And must I lose her? No. [Runs and catches her.]
“ Since all my prayers are vain, I’ll use the nobler argument
“ of man, and force you to the justice you refuse; you are
“ mine by pre-contract; and where’s the vow so sacred to
“ disannul another? I’ll urge my love, your oath, and
“ plead my cause against all monastic shifts upon the earth.

"*Ori.* Unhand me, ravisher!—Would you profane these
" holy walls with violence?—Revenge for all my past dis-
" grace now offers; thy life shall answer this, would I pro-
" voke the law: urge me no farther, but be gone.

"*Mir.* Inexorable woman! let me kneel again. [*Kneels.*]"

Enter Old Mirabel.

Old Mir. Where, where's this counterfeit nun?

Ori. Madness! Confusion! I'm ruined!

Mir. What do I hear? [*Puts on his hood.*] What did you say, sir?

Old Mir. I say she's a counterfeit, and you may be another for ought I know, sir; I have lost my child by these tricks, sir.

Mir. What tricks, sir?

Old Mir. By a pretended trick, sir. A contrivance to bring my son to reason, and it has made him stark mad; I have lost him and a thousand pounds a year.

Mir. [*Discovering himself.*] My dear father I'm your most humble servant.

Old Mir. My dear boy. [*Runs and kisses him.*] Welcome *ex inferis*, my dear boy; 'tis all a trick; she's no more a nun than I am.

Mir. No!

Old Mir. The devil a bit.

Mir. Then kiss me again, my dear dad, for the most happy news—And now, most venerable holy sister! [*Kneels.*]

*Your mercy and your pardon I implore,
For the offence of asking it before.*

" Look 'e, my dear counterfeiting nun, take my advice: be
" a nun in good earnest; women make the best nuns always
" when they can't do otherwise. Ah, my dear father!

" there is a merit in your son's behaviour that you little
" think ; the free deportment of such fellows as I, make
" more ladies religious than all the pulpits in France."

Ori. Oh, sir, how unhappily have you destroyed what
was so near perfection!—He is the counterfeit that has de-
ceived you.

Old Mir. Ha!—Look'e, sir, I recant, she is a nun.

Mir. Sir, your humble servant, then I'm a friar this
moment.

Old Mir. Was ever an old fool so bantered by a brace
o' young ones? Hang you both; you're both counterfeits,
and my plot's spoiled, that's all.

Ori. Shame, and confusion, love, anger, and disappoint-
ment, will work my brain to madness.

[Takes off her habit, and exit.

Mir. Ay, ay, throw by the rags, they have served a turn
for us both, and they shall e'en go off together.

[Takes off his habit.

" Thus the sick wretch, when tortur'd by his pain,
" And finding all essays for life are vain ;
" When the physician can no more design,
" Then call the other doctor, the divine.
" What vows to Heaven, would Heaven restore his health !
" Vows all to Heaven, his thoughts, his actions, wealth !
" But if restor'd to vigour as before,
" His health refuses what his sickness swore.
" The body is no sooner rais'd and well,
" But the weak soul relapses into ill ;
" To all its former swing of life is led,
" And leaves its vows and promises in bed."

[Exit, throwing away the habit.

SCENE III.

Changes to Old Mirabel's House. DURETETE with a Letter.

Dur. [Reads.] ‘ My rudeness was only a proof of your humour, which I have found so agreeable, that I own myself penitent, and willing to make any reparation upon your first appearance to BISARRE.’

Mirabel swears she loves me, and this confirms it; then farewell gallantry, and welcome revenge; ’t is my turn now to be upon the sublime; I ’ll take her off, I warrant her.

Enter BISARRE.

Well, mistress, do you love me?

Bis. I hope, sir, you will pardon the modesty of—

Dur. Of what? Of a dancing devil?—Do you love me, I say?

Bis. Perhaps I—

Dur. What?

Bis. Perhaps I do not.

Dur. Ha! abused again!—Death, woman, I ’ll—

Bis. Hold, hold, sir, I do, I do!

Dur. Confirm it then by your obedience; stand there, and ogle me now as if your heart, blood, and soul were like to fly out at your eyes—First, the direct surprise. [She looks full upon him.] Right; next the *deux yeux par oblique*. [She gives him the side glance.] Right; now depart, and languish. [She turns from him, and looks over her shoulder.] Very well; now sigh. [She sighs.] Now drop your fan on purpose. [She drops her fan.] Now take it up again. [She takes it up.] Come now, confess your faults—Are not you a proud—say after me.

Bis. Proud.

Dur. Impertinent.

Bis. Impertinent.

Dur. Ridiculous.

Bis. Ridiculous.

Dur. Flirt.

Bis. Puppy.

Dur. Zoons ! woman don't provoke me ; we are alone, and you don't know but the devil may tempt me to do you a mischief ; ask my pardon immediately.

Bis. I do, sir ; I only mistook the word.

Dur. Cry then. Have you got e'er a handkerchief ?

Bis. Yes, sir.

Dur. Cry then, handsomely ; cry like a queen in a tragedy.

[She pretending to cry, bursts out a laughing, and enter two Ladies laughing.

Bis. Ha, ha, ha, ha !

Both ladies. Ha, ha, ha !

Dur. Hell broke loose upon me, and all the furies fluttered about my ears !—Betrayed again ?

Bis. That you are, upon my word, my dear captain ; ha, ha, ha !

Dur. The Lord deliver me !

" 1st *Lady.* What ! Is this the mighty man with the bull-face that comes to frighten ladies ? I long to see him " angry ; come, begin."

Dur. Ah, madam, I'm the best natured fellow in the world.

" 2d *Lady.* A man ! We're mistaken, a man has manners ; " the awkward creature is some tinker's trull in a periwig."

Bis. Come, ladies, let's examine him.

[They lay hold on him.

Dur. Examine ! the devil you will.

Bis. I'll lay my life, some great dairy maid in man's clothes.

Dur. They will do't; look'e, dear Christian women, pray hear me.

Bis. Will you ever attempt a lady's honour again?

Dur. If you please to let me get away with my honour, I'll do any thing in the world.

Bis. Will you persuade your friend to marry mine?

Dur. Oh, yes, to be sure.

Bis. And will you do the same by me?

Dur. Burn me, if I do, if the coast be clear. [Runs out.

Bis. Ha, ha, ha, the visit, ladies, was critical for our diversion, we'll go make an end of our tea. [Exeunt.

Enter Young MIRABEL and Old MIRABEL.

Mir. Your patience, sir, I tell you I won't marry; and though you send all the bishops in France to persuade me, I shall never believe their doctrine against their practice.

"Old *Mir.* But will you disobey your father, sir?

"*Mir.* Would my father have his youthful son lie lazng here, bound to a wife, chained like a monkey to make sport to a woman, subject to her whims, humours, longings, vapours, and caprices, to have her one day pleased, to-morrow peevish; the next day mad, the fourth rebellious: and nothing but this succession of impertinence for ages together. Be merciful, sir, to your own flesh and blood.

"Old *Mir.* But, sir, did not I bear all this, why should not you?

"*Mir.* Then you think that marriage, like treason, should attaint the whole body; pray consider, sir, is it reasonable because you throw yourself down from one story, that I must cast myself headlong from the garret

"window?" You would compel me to that state, which I have heard you curse yourself, when my mother and you have battled it for a whole week together.

Old Mir. Never but once, you rogue, and that was when she longed for six Flanders mares: ay, sir, then she was breeding of you, which shewed what an expensive dog I should have of you.

Enter PETIT.

Well, Petit, how does she now?

Pet. Mad, sir, *con pompos*—Ay, Mr. Mirabel, you'll believe that I speak truth now, when I confess that I have told you hitherto nothing but lies; our jesting is come to a sad earnest, she's downright distracted.

Enter BISARRE.

Bis. Where is this mighty victor!—This great exploit is done; "go triumph in the glory of your conquest, inhuman, barbarous man!" Oh, sir, [To the old Gentleman.] your wretched ward has found a tender guardian of you, where her young innocence expected protection, here has she found her ruin.

Old Mir. Ay, the fault is mine, for I believe that rogue won't marry, for fearing of begetting such another disobedient son as his father did. I have done all I can, madam, and now can do no more than run mad for company. [Cries.

Enter DUGARD with his sword drawn.

Dug. Away! Revenge, revenge.

Old Mir. Patience, patience, sir. [Old Mirabel holds him.] Bob, draw. [Aside.

Dug. Patience! The coward's virtue, and the brave man's failing, when thus provoked—Villain!

Mir. Your sister's frenzy shall excuse your madness ; and to shew my concern for what she suffers, I'll bear the villain from her brother. Put up your anger with your sword ; I have a heart like yours, that swells at an affront received, but melts at an injury given ; and if the lovely Oriana's grief be such a moving scene, 'twill find a part within this breast, perhaps as tender as a brother's.

Dug. To prove that soft compassion for her grief, endeavour to remove it. There, there, behold an object that's infective ; I cannot view her, but I am as mad as she.

Enter ORIANA, held by two maids, who put her in a chair.
A sister that my dying parents left, with their last words and blessing, to my care.—Sister, dearest sister. [Goes to her.

Old Mir. Ay, poor child, poor child, d'ye know me ?

Ori. You ! you are *Amadis de Gaul*, sir ;—Oh ! Oh, my heart ! Were you never in love, fair lady ? And do you never dream of flowers and gardens ?—I dream of walking fires, and tall gigantic sights. Take heed, it comes now—What's that ? Pray stand away : I have seen that face, sure. How light my head is !

Mir. What piercing charms has beauty, even in madness ! “these sudden starts of undigested words shoot through my soul, with more persuasive force than all the studied art “of laboured eloquence.” Come, madam, try to repose a little.

Ori. I cannot ; for I must be up to go to church, and I must dress me, put on my new gown, and be so fine, to meet my love. Heigho !—Will not you tell me where my heart lies buried ?

Mir. My very soul is touched—Your hand, my fair.

Ori. How soft and gentle you feel ? I'll tell you your fortune, friend.

Mir. How she stares upon me !

Ori. You have a flattering face ; but 'tis a fine one—I warrant you have five hundred mistresses—Ay, to be sure, a mistress for every guinea in his pocket—Will you pray for me ? I shall die to-morrow—And will you ring my passing bell ?

Mir. “ Oh, woman, woman, of artifice created ! whose “ nature, even distracted, has a cunning : in vain let man “ his sense, his learning boast, when woman’s madness “ over-rules his reason.” Do you know me, injured creature ?

Ori. No ; but you shall be my intimate acquaintance in the grave. [Weeps.]

Mir. Oh, tears, I must believe you ! Sure there is a kind of sympathy in madness ; for even I, obdurate as I am, do feel my soul so tossed with storms of passion, that I could cry for help as well as she. [Wipes his eyes.]

Ori. What, have you lost your lover ? No, you mock me. I’ll go home and pray.

Mir. Stay, my fair innocent, and hear me own my love so loud, that I may call your senses to their place, restore them to their charming happy functions, and reinstate myself into your favour.

Bis. Let her alone, sir : 'tis all too late ; she trembles ; hold her, her fits grow stronger by her talking. Don’t trouble her ; she don’t know you, sir.

Old Mir. Not know him ! What then ? she loves to see him, for all that.

Enter DURETETE.

Dur. Where are you all ? What the devil ! melancholy, and I here ! Are ye sad, and such a ridiculous subject, such a very good jest among you as I am ?

Mir. Away with this impertinence ! this is no place for *bagatelle* : I have murdered my honour, destroyed a lady, and my desire of reparation is come at length too late. See there. —

Dur. What ails her ?

Mir. Alas ! she's mad !

Dur. Mad ! dost wonder at that ? By this light, they're all so ; they're cozening mad, they're brawling mad, they're proud mad ; I just now came from a whole world of mad women, that had almost—What, is she dead ?

Mir. Dead ! Heavens forbid !

Dur. Heavens further it ! for till they be as cold as a key, there's no trusting them ; you're never sure that a woman's in earnest, till she is nailed in her coffin. Shall I talk to her ? Are you mad, mistress ?

Bis. What's that to you, sir ?

Dur. Oons, madam, are you there ?

[*Runs off.*]

Mir. Away, thou wild buffoon ! how poor and mean this humour now appears ! His follies and my own I here disclaim ; this lady's frenzy has restor'd my senses ; and was she perfect now, as once she was, (before you all I speak it) she should be mine ; and as she is, my tears and prayers shall wed her.

Dug. How happy had this declaration been some hours ago !

Bis. Sir, she beckons to you, and waves us to go off.— Come, come, let's leave them. [*Exeunt all but Mir. & Ori.*]

Ori. Oh, sir !

Mir. Speak, my charming angel, if your dear senses have regained their order ; speak, fair, and bless me with the news.

Ori. First let me bless the cunning of my sex, that happy counterfeited frenzy, that has restored to my poor labouring breast the dearest, best beloved of men.

Mir. Tune, all ye spheres, your instruments of joy, and carry round your spacious orbs the happy sound of Oriana's health! her soul, whose harmony was next to yours, is now in tune again; the counterfeiting fair has played the fool.

*She was so mad to counterfeit for me;
I was so mad to pawn my liberty;
But now we both are well, and both are free.*

Ori. How, sir, free!

Mir. As air, my dear bedlamite. What, marry a lunatic! Look ye, my dear, you have counterfeited madness so very well this bout, that you 'll be apt to play the fool all your life long. Here, gentlemen—

Ori. Monster! you won't disgrace me?

Mir. O' my faith, but I will—here, come in, gentlemen —A miracle, a miracle! the woman's dispossessed! the devil 's vanished!

Enter Old MIRABEL and DUGARD.

Old Mir. Bless us! was she possessed?

Mir. With the worst of dæmons, sir; a marriage-devil, a horrid devil. Mr. Dugard, don't be surprised; I promised my endeavours to cure your sister; no mad-doctor in Christendom could have done it more effectually. Take her into your charge; and have a care she don't relapse; if she should, employ me not again; for I am no more infallible than others of the faculty; I do cure sometimes.

Ori. Your remedy, most barbarous man, will prove the greatest poison to my health; for though my former frenzy was but counterfeit, I shall now run into a real madness.

[Exit Old Mir. after.

"Dug. This was a turn beyond my knowledge. I 'm so "confus'd, I know not how to resent it. [Exit.

Mir. What a dangerous precipice have I escaped ! Was not I just now upon the brink of destruction ?

" Enter DURETETE.

" Oh, my friend, let me run into thy bosom ! no lark,
" escaped from the devouring pounces of a hawk, quakes
" with more dismal apprehension.

" *Dur.* The matter, man ?

" *Mir.* Marriage, hanging ; I was just at the gallow's
" foot, the running noose about my neck, and the cart
" wheeling from me. Oh, I sha'n't be myself this month
" again !

" *Dur.* Did not I tell you so ? They are all alike, saints
" or devils : their counterfeiting can't be reputed a deceit;
" for 'tis the nature of the sex, not their contrivance.

" *Mir.* Ay, ay ; there's no living here with security ;
" this house is so full of stratagems and designs, that I
" must abroad again.

" *Dur.* With all my heart ; I'll bear thee company my
" lad. I'll meet you at the play, and we'll set out for
" Italy-to-morrow morning.

" *Mir.* A match ; I'll go pay my compliment of leave to
" my father presently.

" *Dur.* I'm afraid he'll stop you.

" *Mir.* What, pretend a command over me, after his set-
" tlement of a thousand pounds a year upon me ! No, no, he
" has passed away his authority with the conveyance ; the
" will of a living father is chiefly obeyed for the sake of the
" dying one.

" *What makes the world attend and crowd the great ?*

" *Hopes, interest, and dependence make their state.*

"Behold the anti-chamber fill'd with beaux ;
"A horse's levee crown'd with courtly crows.
"Though grumbling subjects make the crown their sport,
"Hopes of a place will bring the sparks to court.
"Dependance ev'n a father's sway secures ;
"For though the son rebels, the heir is yours." [Exeunt.

ACT V. SCENE I.

The Street before the Play-house. Enter MIRABEL and DURETETE, as coming from the Play.

Duretete.

How do you like this play?

Mir. I liked the company; the lady, the rich beauty, in the front box had my attention. These impudent poets bring the ladies together to support them, and to kill every body else.

For death's upon the stage the ladies cry ;
But ne'er mind us that in the audience die.
The poet's hero should not move their pain ;
But they should weep for those their eyes have slain.

Dur. Hoity toity! did Phillis inspire you with all this?

Mir. Ten times more; the play-house is the element of poetry, because the region of beauty; the ladies, methinks, have a more inspiring triumphant air in the boxes than any where else; they sit commanding on their thrones, with all their subject slaves about them; their best clothes, best looks, shining jewels, sparkling eyes, the treasure of the world in a ring. "Then there's such a hurry of

" pleasure to transport us ; the bustle, noise, gallantry, " equipage, garters, feathers, wigs, bows, smiles, ogles, " love, music, and applause." I could wish that my whole life long were the first night of a new play.

Dur. The fellow has quite forgot this journey. Have you bespoke post horses ?

Mir. Grant me but three days, dear captain, one to discover the lady, one to unfold myself, and one to make me happy, and then I 'm yours to the world's end.

Dur. Hast thou the impudence to promise thyself a lady of her figure and quality in so short a time ?

Mir. Yes, sir ; I have a confident address, no disagreeable person, and five hundred louis d'ors in my pocket.

Dur. Five hundred louis d'ors ! You an't mad ?

Mir. I tell you she's worth five thousand ; one of her black brilliant eyes is worth a diamond as big as her head. I compared her necklace with her looks, and the living jewels out-sparkled the dead ones by a million.

Dur. But you have owned to me, that, abating Oriana's pretensions to marriage, you loved her passionately : then how can you wander at this rate ?

Mir. I longed for partridge t' other day off the king's plate ; but, d'ye think, because I could not have it, I must eat nothing ?

Dur. Pr'ythee, Mirabel, be quiet ; you may remember what narrow escapes you have had abroad, by following strangers ; you forget your leap out of the courtesan's window at Bologna, to save your fine ring there.

Mir. My ring's a trifle ; there's nothing we possess comparable to what we desire. Be shy of a lady, barefaced, in the front box, with a thousand pounds in jewels about her neck ! For shame ! no more—

Enter ORIANA in boy's clothes, with a letter.

Ori. Is your name Mirabel, sir?

Mir. Yes, sir.

Ori. A letter from your uncle in Picardy. [Gives the letter.

Mir. [Reads.] ‘The bearer is the son of a Protestant gentleman, who, flying for his religion, left me the charge of this youth.’ A pretty boy. ‘He’s fond of some handsome service that may afford him an opportunity of improvement. Your care of him will oblige

Your’s.

Hast a mind to travel, child?

Ori. ’Tis my desire, sir; I should be pleased to serve a traveller in any capacity.

Mir. A hopeful inclination. You shall along with me into Italy as my page.

Dur. I don’t think it safe; the rogue’s too handsome.—[Noise without.] The play is done, and some of the ladies come this way.

Enter LAMORCE, with her train borne up by a Page.

Mir. Duretete, the very dear, identical she!

Dur. And what then?

Mir. Why, ’tis she.

Dur. And what then, sir?

Mir. Then! Why—Look ye, sirrah, the first piece of service I put you upon, is to follow that lady’s coach, and bring me word where she lives. [To Oriana.

Ori. I don’t know the town, sir, and am afraid of losing myself.

Mir. Pshaw!

Lam. Page, what’s become of all my people?

Page. I can't tell, madam; I can see no sign of your ladyship's coach.

Lam. That fellow is got into his old pranks, and fallen drunk somewhere—None of my footmen there?

Page. Not one, madam.

Lam. These servants are the plague of our lives. What shall I do?

Mir. By all my hopes, Fortune pimps for me! Now, Duretete, for a piece of gallantry.

Dur. Why, you won't, sure?

Mir. Won't, brute!—Let not your servants' neglect, madam, put your ladyship to any inconvenience; for you can't be disappointed of an equipage whilst mine waits below; and would you honour the master so far, he would be proud to pay his attendance.

Dur. Ay, to be sure.

[*Aside.*]

Lam. Sir, I won't presume to be so troublesome; for my habitation is a great way off.

Dur. Very true, madam; and he is a little engaged: besides, madam, a hackney-coach will do as well, madam.

Mir. Rude beast, be quiet. [*To Duretete.*]—The farther from home, madam, the more occasion you have for a guard—Pray, madam—

Lam. Lard, sir!—

[*He seems to press, she to decline it, in dumb show.*]

Dur. Ah, the devil's in his impudence!—Now he wheedles, she smiles; he flatters, she simpers; he swears, she believes; he's a rogue, and she's a w—— in a moment.

Mir. Without there! my coach!—Duretete, wish me joy.

[*Hands the lady out.*]

Dur. Wish you a surgeon—Here, you little Picard, go follow your master, and he'll lead you—

Ori. Whither, sir?

Dur. To the academy, child ; 'tis the fashion with men of quality to teach their pages their exercises—Go.

Ori. Won't you go with him too, sir ? That woman may do him some harm ; I don't like her.

Dur. Why, how now, Mr. Page ? Do you start up to give laws of a sudden ? Do you pretend to rise at court, and disapprove the pleasure of your betters ? Look ye, sirrah, if ever you would rise by a great man, be sure to be with him in his little actions : and, as a step to your advancement, follow your master immediately, and make it your hope that he goes to a bawdy-house.

Ori. Heavens forbid !

[Exit.]

Dur. Now would I sooner take a cart in company of the hangman, than a coach with that woman. What a strange antipathy have I taken against these creatures ! a woman to me is aversion upon aversion ; a cheese, a cat, a breast of mutton, the squalling of children, the grinding of knives, and the snuff of a candle.

[Exit.]

SCENE II.

A handsome Apartment. Enter MIRABEL and LAMORCE.

Lam. To convince me, sir, that your service was something more than good breeding, please to lay out an hour of your company upon my desire, as you have already upon my necessity.

Mer. Your desire, madam, has only prevented my request. My hours ! make them your's, madam ; eleven, twelve, one, two, three, and all that belong to those happy minutes.

Lam. But I must trouble you, sir, to dismiss your retinue ; because an equipage at my door, at this time of night, will not be consistent with my reputation.

Mir. By all means, madam, all but one little boy. Here, page, order my coach and servants home, and do you stay ; 't is a foolish country boy, that knows nothing but innocence.

Lam. Innocence, sir ! I should be sorry if you made any sinister constructions of my freedom.

Mir. Oh, madam, I must not pretend to remark upon any body's freedom, having so entirely forfeited my own.

Lam. Well, sir, 't were convenient towards our easy correspondence, that we entered into a free confidence of each other, by a mutual declaration of what we are, and what we think of one another. Now, sir, what are you ?

Mir. In three words, madam—I am a gentleman, I have five hundred pounds in my pocket, and a clean shirt on.

Lam. And your name is——

Mir. Mustapha——Now, madam, the inventory of your fortunes.

Lam. My name is Lamorce ; my birth noble ; I was married young, to a proud, rude, sullen, impetuous fellow ; the husband spoiled the gentleman ; crying ruined my face, till at last I took heart, leaped out of a window, got away to my friends, sued my tyrant, and recovered my fortune. I lived from fifteen to twenty to please a husband ; from twenty to forty I'm resolved to please myself, and from thence upwards I'll humour the world.

Mir. The charming wild notes of a bird broke out of its cage.

Lam. I marked you at the play, and something I saw of a well-furnished, careless, agreeable *tour* about you. Me thought your eyes made their mannerly demands with such an arch modesty, that I don't know how—but I'm elop'd. Ha, ha, ha ! I'm elop'd.

Mir. Ha, ha, ha ! I rejoice in your good fortune with all my heart.

Lam. Oh, now I think on't, Mr. Mustapha, you have got the finest ring there ; I could scarcely believe it right ; pray, let me see it.

Mir. Hum !—Yes, madam, 'tis right—but, but, but, but it was given me by my mother ; an old family ring, madam, an old-fashioned family ring.

Lam. Ay, sir—if you can entertain yourself “ with a “ song ” for a moment, I'll wait on you immediately. “ Come in here.”

“ Enter Singers.

“ Call what you please, sir.”

[Exit.]

Mir. “ The new song—‘ Pr'ythee, Phillis.’—[Song.]” Certainly the stars have been in a strange intriguing humour when I was born. Ay, this night should I have had a bride in my arms, and that I should like well enough ; but what should I have to-morrow night ? The same. And what next night ?—The same. And what next night ?—The very same—Soup for breakfast, soup for dinner, soup for supper, and soup for breakfast again—But here's variety.

*I love the fair who freely gives her heart,
That's mine by ties of nature, not of art ;
Who boldly owns whate'er her thoughts indite,
And is too modest for a hypocrite.*

LAMORCE appears at the door : as he runs towards her, four Bravoes step in before her. He starts back.

She comes, she comes !—Hum, hum—Bitch—Murdered, murdered to be sure ! The cursed strumpet, to make me send away my servants ! Nobody near me—These cut-throats

always make sure work. What shall I do? I have but one way. Are these gentlemen your relations, madam?

Lam. Yes, sir.

Mir. Gentlemen, your most humble servant. Sir, your most faithful; yours, sir, with all my heart; your most obedient. Come, gentlemen, [Salutes all round.] please to sit—no ceremony—next the lady, pray, sir.

Lam. Well, sir, and how d'ye like my friends?

[They all sit.]

Mir. Oh, madam, the most finished gentlemen! I was never more happy in good company in my life. I suppose, sir, you have travelled?

1st Bra. Yes, sir.

Mir. Which way, sir, may I presume?

1st Bra. In a western barge, sir.

Mir. Ha, ha, ha, very pretty! facetious pretty gentleman.

Lam. Ha, ha, ha! Sir, you have got the prettiest ring upon your finger there—

Mir. Ah, madam, 'tis at your service with all my heart!

[Offering the ring.]

Lam. By no means, sir; a family ring! [Takes it.]

Mir. No matter, madam. Seven hundred pounds by this light! [Aside.]

2d Bra. Pray, sir, what's o'clock?

Mir. Hum!—Sir, I have left my watch at home.

2d Bra. I thought I saw the string of it just now.

Mir. Ods my life, sir, I beg your pardon, here it is! but it don't go. [Putting it up.]

Lam. Oh, dear sir, an English watch! Tompion's, I presume.

Mir. D'ye like it, madam?—No ceremony—'tis at your service with all my heart and soul—Tompion's! Hang ye! [Aside.]

1st Bra. But, sir, above all things, I admire the fashion
and make of your sword-hilt.

Mir. I am mightily glad you like it, sir.

1st Bra. Will you part with it, sir?

Mir. Sir, I won't sell it,

1st Bra. Not sell it, sir!

Mir. No, gentlemen; but I'll bestow it with all my
heart. [Offering it.]

1st Bra. Oh, sir, we shall rob you!

Mir. That you do, I'll be sworn. [Aside.] I have another at home; pray, sir—Gentlemen, you're too modest: have I any thing else that you can fancy? Sir, will you do me a favour? [To the 1st Bravo.] I am extremely in love with that wig which you wear; will you do me the favour to change with me?

1st Bra. Look ye, sir, this is a family wig, and I would not part with it; but if you like it—

Mir. Sir, your most humble servant. [They change wigs.]

1st Bra. Madam, your most humble slave.

[Goes up foppishly to the lady, and salutes her.]

2d Bra. The fellow's very liberal; shall we murder him?

[Aside.]

1st Bra. What, let him escape to hang us all, and I to lose my wig! No, no; I want but a handsome pretence to quarrel with him; for you know we must act like gentlemen. [Aside.] Here, some wine. [Wine here.] Sir, your good health. [Pulls Mirabel by the nose.]

Mir. Oh, Sir, your most humble servant! A pleasant frolic enough, to drink a man's health, and pull him by the nose. Ha, ha, ha! the pleasantest, pretty-humoured gentleman!

Lam. Help the gentleman to a glass. [Mir. drinks.]

1st Bra. How d'ye like the wine, sir?

Mir. Very good o' the kind, sir. But I tell ye what ; I find we are all inclined to be frolicsome, and 'egad, for my own part, I was never more disposed to be merry. Let's make a night on 't, ha !—This wine is pretty ; but I have such Burgundy at home—Look ye, gentlemen, let me send for half a dozen flasks of my Burgundy, I defy France to match it—'T will make us all life, all air ; pray, gentlemen—

2d Bra. Eh—shall us have the Burgundy ?

1st Bra. Yes, faith, we'll have all we can. Here, call up the gentleman's servant—What think you, Lamorce ?

Lam. Yes, yes. Your servant is a foolish country boy, sir ; he understands nothing but innocence.

Mir. Ay, ay, madam. Here, page !

Enter ORIANA.

Take this key, and go to my butler, order him to send half a dozen flasks of the red Burgundy, marked a thousand ; and be sure you make haste : I long to entertain my friends here, my very good friends.

Omnès. Ah, dear sir !

1st Bra. Here, child, take a glass of wine—Your master and I have changed wigs, honey, in a frolic.—Where had you this pretty boy, honest Mustapha ?

Ori. Mustapha !

Mir. Out of Picardy. This is the first errand he has made for me, and if he does it right, I'll encourage him.

Ori. The red Burgundy, sir ?

Mir. The red, marked a thousand ; and be sure you make haste.

Ori. I shall, sir.

[Exit.]

1st Bra. Sir, you were pleased to like my wig, have you

any fancy for my coat? Look ye, sir, it has served a great many honest gentlemen very faithfully.

Mir. Not so faithfully, for I am afraid it has got a scurvy trick of leaving all its masters in necessity.—The insolence of these dogs is beyond their cruelty. [Aside.]

Lam. You're melancholy, sir.

Mir. Only concerned, madam, that I should have no servant here but this little boy; he'll make some confounded blunder, I'll lay my life on't: I would not be disappointed of my wine for the universe.

Lam. He'll do well enough, sir. But supper's ready; will you please to eat a bit, sir?

Mir. Oh, madam, I never had a better stomach in my life!

Lam. Come, then; we have nothing but a plate of soup.

Mir. [Aside.] Ah, the marriage-soup I could dispense with now! [Exit, handing the lady.]

2d Bra. That wig won't fall to your share.

1st Bra. No, no, we'll settle that after supper; in the mean time the gentleman shall wear it.

2d Bra. Shall we dispatch him?

3d Bra. To be sure. I think he knows me.

1st Bra. Ay, ay, dead men tell no tales; I wonder at the impudence of the English rogues, that will hazard the meeting a man at the bar, whom they have encountered upon the road. I ha'n't the confidence to look a man in the face after I have done him an injury; therefore we'll murder him.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

Changes to Old Mirabel's House. Enter DURETETE.

Dur. My friend has forsaken me. I have abandoned my mistress, my time lies heavy upon my hands, and my money

burns in my pocket. But, now I think on 't, my Myrmidons are upon duty to-night ; I'll fairly stroll down to the guard, and nod away the night with my honest Lieutenant, over a flask of wine, a rakehell story, and a pipe of tobacco.

Going off, BISARRE meets him.

Bis. Who comes there ? Stand !

Dur. Hey-day ! now she's turn'd dragoon.

Bis. Look ye, sir, I'm told you intend to travel again. I design to wait on you as far as Italy.

Dur. Then I'll travel into Wales.

Bis. Wales ! What country's that ?

Dur. The land of mountains, child, where you're never out of the way, because there's no such thing as a high road.

Bis. Rather always in a high road, because you travel all upon hills. But be it as it will, I'll jog along with you.

Dur. But we intend to sail to the East-Indies.

Bis. East or West, 'tis all one to me ? I'm tight and light, and the fitter for sailing.

Dur. But suppose we take through Germany, and drink hard.

Bis. Suppose I take through Germany, and drink harder than you.

Dur. Suppose I go to a bawdy-house.

Bis. Suppose I shew you the way.

Dur. 'Sdeath, woman, will you go to the guard with me, and smoak a pipe ?

Bis. Allons donc !

Dur. The devil 's in the woman ! Suppose I hang myself.

Bis. There I'll leave you.

Dur. And a happy riddance ; the gallows is welcome.

Bis. Hold, hold, sir ; [Catches him by the arm, going.] one word before we part.

Dur. Let me go, madam, or I shall think that you are a man, and perhaps examine you.

Bis. Stir if you dare ; I have still spirits to attend me ; and can raise such a muster of fairies as shall punish you to death. Come, sir, stand there now and ogle me. [He frowns upon her.] Now a languishing sigh. [He groans.] Now run and take my fan—faster. [He runs and takes it up.] Now play with it handsomely.

Dur. Ay, ay. [He tears it in pieces.]

Bis. Hold, hold, dear humourous coxcomb ! Captain, spare my fan, and I'll—Why, you rude, inhuman monster, don't you expect to pay for this ?

Dur. Yes, madam, there's twelve pence ; for that is the price on't.

Bis. Sir, it cost a guinea.

Dur. Well, madam, you shall have the sticks again.

[Throws them to her, and exit.]

Bis. Ha, ha, ha ! ridiculous, below my concern. I must follow him, however, to know if he can give me any news of Oriana.

[Exit.]

SCENE IV.

Changes to Lamorce's Lodgings. Enter MIRABEL.

Mir. Bloody hell-hounds ! I over-heard you. Was not I two hours ago, the happy, gay, rejoicing Mirabel ? How did I plume my hopes in a fair coming prospect of a long scene of years ? Life courted me with all the charms of vigour, youth, and fortune ; and to be torn away from all my promised joys, is more than death—the manner too, by villains. Oh, my Oriana, this very moment might have bless'd me in thy arms ! and my poor boy, the innocent boy !—

Confusion!—But hush, they come; I must dissemble still.
—No news of my wine, gentlemen?

Enter the four Bravoes.

1st Bra. No, sir; I believe your country booby has lost himself, and we can wait no longer for it—True, sir, you are a pleasant gentleman; but I suppose you understand our business.

Mir. Sir, I may go near to guess at your employments; you, sir, are a lawyer, I presume; you a physician, you a scrivener, and you a stock-jobber—All cut-throats, 'egad.

[*Aside.*]

4th Bra. Sir, I am a broken officer; I was cashiered at the head of the army for a coward; so I took up the trade of murder to retrieve the reputation of my courage.

3d Bra. I am a soldier too, and would serve my king; but I don't like the quarrel: and I have more honour than to fight in a bad cause.

2d Bra. I was bred a gentleman, and have no estate; but I must have my whore and my bottle, through the prejudice of education.

1st Bra. I am a ruffian too, by the prejudice of education; I was bred a butcher. In short, sir, if your wine had come, we might have trifled a little longer. Come, sir, which sword will you fall by?—Mine, sir?

[*Draws.*]

2d Bra. Or mine?

[*Draws.*]

3d Bra. Or mine?

[*Draws.*]

4th Bra. Or mine?

[*Draws.*]

Mir. I scorn to beg my life; but to be butcher'd thus!
[*Knocking.*] Oh, there's the wine!—This moment for my life or death.

Enter ORIANA.

Lost, for ever lost! Where's the wine, child?

[*Faintly.*]

Ori. Coming up, sir.

[*Stamps.*]

Enter DURETETE with his sword drawn, and six of the Grand Musqueteers with their pieces presented; the Ruffians drop their swords. Oriana goes off.

Mir. The wine, the wine, the wine! Youth, pleasure, fortune, days and years are now my own again! Ah, my dear friends! did not I tell you this wine would make me merry?—Dear Captain, these gentlemen are the best-natured, facetious, witty creatures, that ever you knew.

Enter LAMORCE.

Lam. Is the wine come, sir?

Mir. Oh, yes, madam, the wine is come—See there! [Pointing to the soldiers.] Your ladyship has got a very fine ring upon your finger.

Lam. Sir, 'tis at your service.

Mir. Oh, ho! is it so? Thou dear seven hundred pounds, thou'rt welcome home again with all my heart—ad's my life, madam, you have got the finest built watch there! Tompion's I presume.

Lam. Sir, you may wear it.

Mir. Oh, madam, by no means, 'tis too much—rob you of all! [Taking it from her.] Good dear time, thou'rt a precious thing, I'm glad I have retrieved thee. [Putting it up.] What, my friends neglected all this while! Gentlemen, you'll pardon my complaisance to the lady. How now—is it civil to be so out of humour at my entertainment, and I so pleased with yours? Captain, you are surprized at all this! but we're in our frolics, you must know—Some wine here.

Enter Servants with wine.

Come, Captain, this worthy gentleman's health.—[Tweakes the first Bravo by the nose; he roars.] But now, where—where's my dear deliverer, my boy, my charming boy

1st Bra. I hope some of our crew below stairs have dispatched him.

Mir. Villain, what sayest thou? Dispached! I'll have you all tortured, racked, torn to pieces alive, if you have touched my boy—Here, Page! Page! Page! [Runs out.

Dur. Here, gentlemen, be sure you secure those fellows.

1st Bra. Yes, sir, we know you and your guard will be very civil to us.

Dur. Now for you, madam—he, he, he. I'm so pleased to think that I shall be revenged of one woman before I die—Well, Mistress Snap-Dragon, which of these honourable gentlemen is so happy to call you wife?

1st Bra. She should have been mine to-night, because Sampre here had her last night. Sir, she's very true to us all four.

Dur. Take them to justice.

[*The Guards carry off the Bravoes.*

Enter Old MIRABEL, DUGARD, and BISARRE.

Old Mir. Robin, Robin, where's Bob? Where's my boy?—What, is this the lady? a pretty whore, faith? Hearn'e, child, because my son was so civil as to oblige you with a coach, I'll treat you with a cart, indeed I will.

Dug. Ay, madam, and you shall have a swinging equipage, three or four thousand footmen at your heels at least.

Dur. No less becomes her quality.

Bis. Faugh! the monster!

Dur. Monster! ay, you're all a little monstrous, let me tell you.

Enter MIRABEL.

Old Mir. Ah, my dear Bob, art thou safe, man?

Mir. No, no, sir, I am ruin'd, the saver of my life is lost.

Old Mir. No, he came and brought us the news.

Mir. But where is he?—

Enter ORIANA.

Ha! [Runs and embraces her.] My dear preserver, what shall I do to recompense your trust?—“ Father, friends, “ gentlemen, behold the youth that has relieved me from “ the most ignominious death, from the scandalous poniards “ of these bloody ruffians, where to have fallen would have “ defamed my memory with vile reproach—My life, estate, “ my all, is due to such a favour.” Command me, child: before you all, before my late so kind indulgent stars, I swear to grant whate'er you ask.

Ori. To the same stars, indulgent now to me, I will appeal as to the justice of my claim; I shall demand but what was mine before—the just performance of your contract to Oriana. [Discovering herself.

Omnis. Oriana!

Ori. In this disguise I resolved to follow you abroad, counterfeited that letter that got me into your service, and so, by this strange turn of fate, I became the instrument of your preservation; few common servants would have had such cunning; my love inspired me with the meaning of your message, because my concern for your safety made me suspect your company.

Dur. Mirabel, you're caught.

Mir. Caught! I scorn the thought of imposition, “ the “ tricks and artful cunning of the sex I have despised, “ and broke through all contrivance.”—Caught!—No, 'tis my voluntary act; this was no human stratagem, but by my providential stars design'd, to show the dangers wandering youth incurs by the pursuit of an unlawful love, to plunge me headlong in the snares of vice, and then to free me by the hands of virtue.—Here, on my knees, I humbly beg my fair preserver's pardon; my thanks are needless, for myself I owe. And now for ever do protest me yours

Old Mir. Tall, all, di, dall. [Sings.] Kiss me, daughter
—No, you shall kiss me first, [To Lamorce.] for you're the
cause on't.—Well, Bisarre, what say you to the captain?

Bis. I like the beast well enough, but don't understand
his paces so well as to venture him in a strange road.

Old Mir. But marriage is so beaten a path that you can't
go wrong.

Bis. Ay, 'tis so beaten that the way is spoiled.

Dur. There is but one thing should make me thy husband
—I could marry thee to-day for the privilege of beating
thee to-morrow.

Old Mir. Come, come, you may agree for all this.—*Mr.
Dugard,* are not you pleased with this?

Dug. So pleased, that if I thought it might secure your
son's affection to my sister, I would double her fortune.

Mir. Fortune!—Has she not given me mine, my life,
estate, my all—and what is more, her virtuous self?—

“ Virtue, in this so advantageous life, has her own sparkling
“ charms, more tempting far than glittering gold or glory.”
Behold the foil [Pointing to Lamorce.] that sets this brightness off! [To Oriana.] Here view the pride, [To Oriana.] and scandal of her sex. [To Lam.] “ There, [To Lam.] the
“ false meteor whose deluding light leads mankind to de-
“ struction. Here, [To Oriana.] the bright shining star
“ that guides to a security of happiness. A garden, and a
“ single she, [To Oriana.] was our first father's bliss; the
“ tempter, [To Lam.] and to wander, was his curse.”

What liberty can be so tempting there, [To Lam.

As a soft, virtuous, am'rous bondage here? [To Ori.

[Exeunt Omnes.

EPILOGUE.

Written by NATHANIEL ROWE, Esq.

*FROM Fletcher's great original, to-day,
We took the hint of this our modern play :
Our author, from his lines, has strove to paint
A witty, wild, inconstant, free gallant :
With a gay soul, with sense, and will to rove,
With language, and with softness fram'd to move,
With little truth, but with a world of love.
Such forms on maids in morning slumbers wait,
When fancy first instructs their hearts to beat,
When first they wish, and sigh for what they know not yet.
Frown not, ye fair, to think your lovers may
Reach your cold hearts by some unguarded way ;
Let Villeroy's misfortune make you wise,
There's danger still in darkness and surprise ;
Though from his rampart he defy'd the foe,
Prince Eugene found an aqueduct below.
With easy freedom, and a gay address,
A pressing lover seldom wants success :
Whilst the respectful, like the Greek, sits down,
And wastes a ten years siege before one town.
For her own sake let no forsaken maid,
Our wanderer, for want of love, upbraid ;
Since 't is a secret, none should e'er confess,
That they have lost the happy power to please.
If you suspect the rogue inclin'd to break,
Break first, and swear you've turn'd him off a week ;
As princes, when they resty statesmen doubt,
Before they can surrender, turn them out.*

*Whate'er you think, grave uses may be made,
And much even for inconstancy be said.
Let the good man for marriage-rites design'd,
With studious care and diligence of mind,
Turn over every page of womankind;
Mark every sense, and how the readings vary,
And, when he knows the worst on't—let him marry.*

7 JU 52

THE END.